soap OPERA digest

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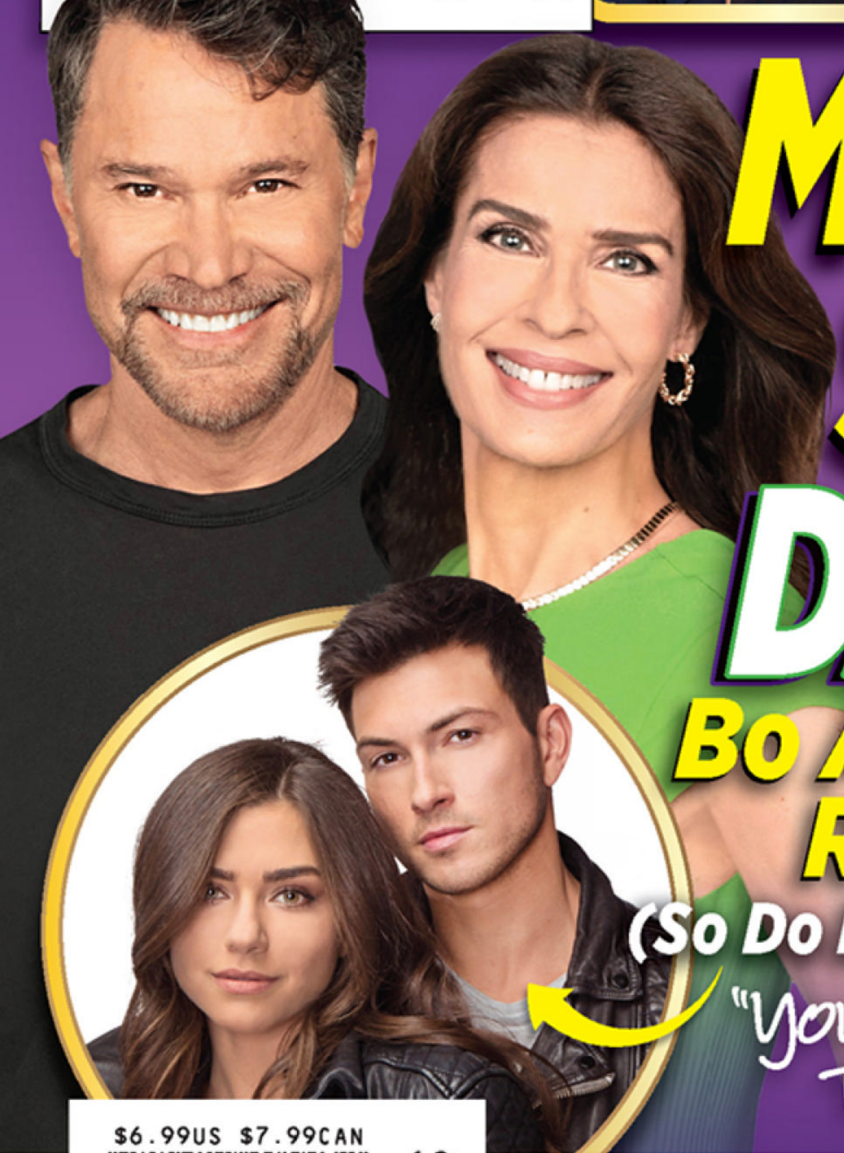
Thorsten Kaye Back To B&B



MUST-SEE DAYS!

Bo And Hope Return!

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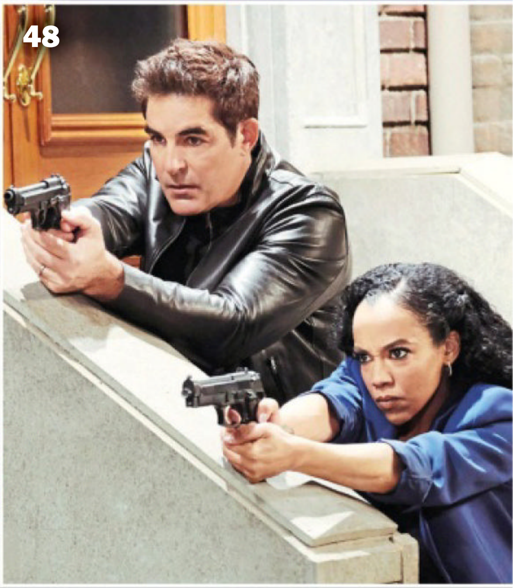

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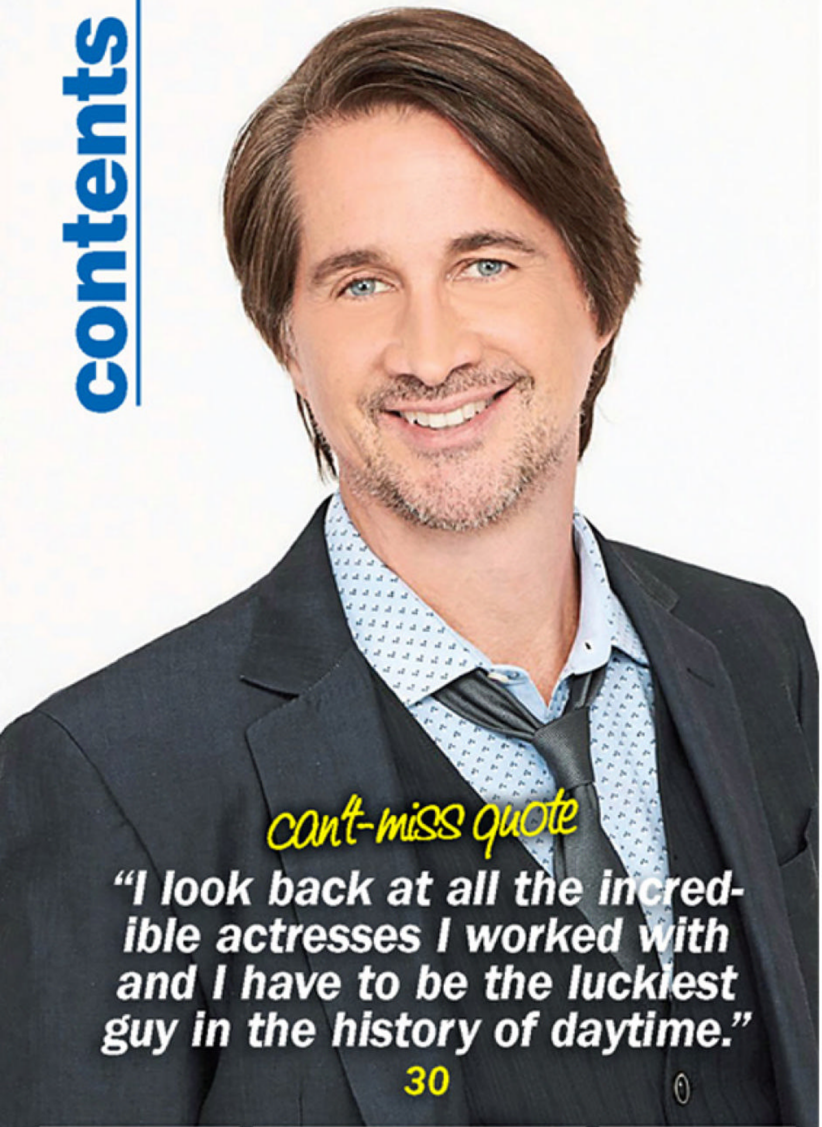

can't-miss quote

"I look back at all the incredible actresses I worked with and I have to be the luckiest guy in the history of daytime."

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COVER CREDITS: Peter Reckell and Kristian Alfonso (Bo and Hope, DAYS). Photos: Howard Wise/Peacock. Victoria Konefal and Robert Scott Wilson (Ciara and Ben, DAYS). Photo: Howard Wise/JPI. Michael Easton (Finn, GH). Photo: Craig Sjodin/ABC. Cameron Mathison (Drew, GH) and Alison Sweeney (ex-Sami, DAYS). Photo: Crown Media United States, LLC. Thorsten Kaye (Ridge, B&B). Photo: Gilles Toucas/Courtesy of Bell-Phillip Television Inc.

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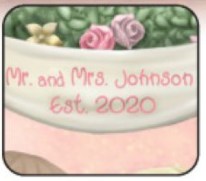

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late-breaking news

hot off the press

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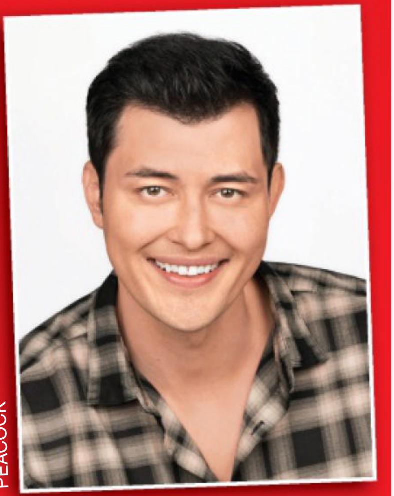


PEACOCK

DAYS PREVIEW! BO AND HOPE RETURN!

Peter Reckell (Bo) and Kristian Alfonso (Hope) will reprise their signature roles this week. Here, Head Writer Ron Carlivati shares how it all happened and previews what's ahead for this beloved duo.

Soap Opera Digest: When you finished BEYOND SALEM: CHAPTER 2, did you always have in mind that this story would continue?

Ron Carlivati: Yes, which I hope was pretty obvious to everyone that by ending with Bo no longer in heaven, but alive and in a cryogenic tube, that we were at least hoping to pick it up, if not planning to pick it up. I knew it was a gamble to end on a cliffhanger because we had no guarantee that BEYOND SALEM would get picked up for another season. We hoped maybe that might help if there was an outcry of people wanting to see what was gonna happen next, but we knew it was a great ending and we went with it, kind of crossing our fingers that we would be able to pick up that story.

Digest: Now in the interim, DAYS moved to Peacock. Did that change any of your plans?

CHRIS HASTON/NBC

Carlivati: We were toying around with the idea of the next chapter of Bo and Hope, and when we started telling the story with the three women with the orchid and that they might actually die, we said, "Well, where is this story going to go? They're going to get this disease that Roman got, and we know the orchid can cure them." And we kicked around ideas and I started to think about how we could tie what was happening with these women into Bo and Hope's story. One thought was that we don't know what happened to them, we think they're dead and then we pick them up in these cryogenic tubes and that's BEYOND SALEM:

CHAPTER 3. We were pitching this to Peacock and they hadn't yet made a decision about it. By the time we found out that they were going to move the show to Peacock, we thought, "Well, what about just continuing the story on the mothership?" So we took what we were thinking might be BEYOND SALEM: CHAPTER 3 and just reworked it to be on the regular show. So the reason Marlena and Kayla and Kate were sort of in limbo for a few weeks in heaven/purgatory is because we were stalling because we did not have an answer about whether we were doing BEYOND SALEM. I, personally, loved the little interim arc in heaven. I thought that was super-fun. But it was kind of a pit stop on the way to them being in this mysterious lab, in these cryogenic tubes.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Return To Me: Hope (Kristian Alfonso) and Bo (Peter Reckell) are on a collision course to reuniting.

Digest: Okay, so you decided to tell the story on the mothership. What happened next?

Carlivati: So they pulled the trigger on that and said yes, and the next step in this was to come up with the story. I pitched it to Kristian [Alfonso, Hope] and Peter [Reckell, Bo] separately and heard their thoughts about everything. Obviously, we had to get Megan Hathaway in place. We knew we would want Ben and Ciara for it, and we knew we would want Steve Burton's character, Harris Michaels, in it, so there was a lot that went into it.

Digest: What can you tease about where the story is going?

Carlivati: The audience knows they saw Bo open his eyes in the tube at the end of BEYOND SALEM, and now, several months have gone by. When we first showed the women, we panned to this empty tube in the back of the room, to remind the audience that Bo was in that, and he's not in that anymore, so where is he? We pick up Hope where we left her off. She had gone through this whole experience with Harris Michaels, finding out that he was in league with Megan Hathaway, and we ended her on BEYOND SALEM, like, "I have to bring Megan Hathaway to justice. I have to find her and make her pay." So Hope is on this quest to find Megan and it involves her having to deal with Harris again because he may have a clue that she needs. She's loath to get involved with him again because they had this cat-and-mouse relationship for all that time — and he tried to kill her. We know that Bo is floating around out there somewhere in Megan's clutches, but we have no idea the condition that he has awakened in. The last we saw Bo, he was dying of a brain tumor and now he's alive, but where is he and what condition is he in? So the whole idea is that Hope is on a collision course with Bo and she's unaware of it, but the audience knows.

Digest: What does it mean to you to be writing this couple as part of the mothership?

Carlivati: It's a big thrill. Obviously, I got to write them once, where they only really interacted briefly in heaven, which was my favorite episode of the five of BEYOND SALEM: CHAPTER 2, where they actually come face-to-face and get to share memories and get to dance. But they only met on some sort of an astral plane, if you will, and now they're in the real world. I'm excited, also, because I know the audience is going to be excited to see the story play out. I know where it's going and what a fun ride it is, so I'm really looking forward to it.

Digest: How would you sum up what's ahead?

Carlivati: This is old-school DAYS OF OUR LIVES, and it's something that the audience has waited a very, very long time to see. You won't want to miss it.

Y&R: KYLE REACTS TO JACK AND DIANE'S ENGAGEMENT

The Marrying Kind: Kyle (Mealor, l.) is thrown by Jack (Peter Bergman) and Diane's (Susan Walters) latest announcement.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

■ Since Kyle wasn't receptive to his parents becoming a couple, Jack and Diane are understandably concerned about how their son will feel about their engagement. "Kyle's mom and dad are still at the cabin where they're keeping a low profile because of Jeremy," sets up Michael Mealor (Kyle). "So, Kyle has no idea that Jack proposed and Diane said, 'Yes.' In the meantime, Kyle finds out that Phyllis sent Jeremy on this wild goose chase to Europe, so Kyle calls his dad and tells him the coast is clear. That's when they decide to come home."

En route, Diane slips off her engagement ring and stashes it into her purse, so the bling doesn't catch Kyle's eye as soon as they arrive home. "When his parents show up, Kyle's mind is on Jeremy Stark, so Jack and Kyle discuss how they need to come up with a plan to deal with Jeremy after he figures out that he's been hoodwinked and heads back to Genoa City," says Mealor. "Diane then brings up that there's something that she and Jack would like to share. Kyle tenses up because he thinks that it's something bad."

> *"Kyle believes this is all happening too fast."*

Jack announces that he and Diane are officially engaged. "Kyle is not happy," affirms the actor. "It's his biggest fear that his parents will hurt each other and he loses his mother again. They only recently told Kyle that they are in a relationship. He didn't have to agree with it, but he accepted it because he loves both of his parents. Right after that, his mom moved into his dad's house, and now comes this news of them getting engaged. Kyle believes this is all happening too fast and that they need to pump the brakes."

Jack vows that nothing will interfere with his and Diane's happiness this time, but Kyle isn't as confident. "As far as Kyle is concerned, there's still a lot that can go wrong," points out Mealor. "You can have the best intentions and strive for not letting anything get in your way, but certain things are just out of your control — and one of them is Jeremy Stark."

B&B: HOPE BLINDSIDES LIAM

Talk The Talk: Liam (Clifton) is not thrilled with Hope's (Annika Noelle) news about Thomas.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

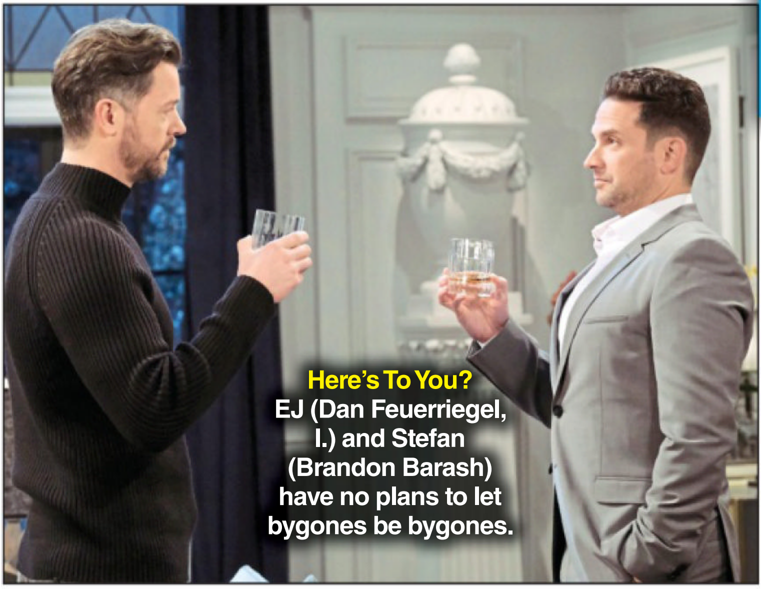
Hope has news about Thomas that leaves Liam in the lurch. "Steffy, as her boss, tells her that Hope For the Future is not bringing in the numbers it once did, and she is going to have to get rid of that line unless Hope makes some drastic changes," explains Scott Clifton (Liam). As Hope ponders her options, "Steffy basically says the only drastic change that will actually work is rehiring Thomas as lead designer; otherwise, they will have to shelve Hope For the Future. So, Hope comes home and she tells Liam this. At first, she hesitates and doesn't tell him. She kind of chickens out."

Hope changes the subject and shares that Douglas wants to come home to them. "Liam is ecstatic to hear that," states Clifton. "Liam's sadness about losing Douglas was more sadness for Hope. He saw firsthand how devastated she was, and Liam's happiness about Douglas coming back is more his happiness for Hope. She has been miserable and depressed, and he saw his wife suffering by not having her son there. They had hoped Douglas would want to come home and apparently he does, so Liam is happy to see Hope happy."

The elation is short-lived, however, when Hope finally comes clean about what's happening at work. "Liam is happy for her but he is picking up on the fact that Hope should be happier," notes the actor. "But unbeknownst to Liam, Hope is harboring this secret that she has to rehire Thomas to keep her line afloat. In following conversations, she basically comes out and says, 'I'm so sorry but I have to rehire Thomas.' And Liam, of course, goes, 'What the hell? When are we going to get rid of this guy? What does it take? Is there any line that Thomas could cross that would be the final be-all, end-all?' Liam is upset by the news and says something like, 'I'm scared that there is no line with Thomas. I'm worried about what Thomas could get away with next, and you and Steffy just shrug and say, "Well, he's a really good designer." ' Because that's what Hope keeps saying: 'But he's such a talented designer,' and Liam keeps saying, 'I know that, but that is not the problem. The problem is all the s--t he does to us personally and he just gets away with it,' and Hope once again says she thinks he's changed and Liam goes, 'When has he ever changed?' This definitely puts stress on their relationship."

> *"This definitely puts stress on their relationship."*

DAYS: EJ AND STEFAN SHOWDOWN



Here's To You? EJ (Dan Feuerriegel, l.) and Stefan (Brandon Barash) have no plans to let bygones be bygones.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

■ After Stefan manages to successfully drug EJ again, the siblings have a showdown. "It has been fun to pit these brothers against each other," begins Head Writer Ron Carlivati. "They're two alpha guys that have a bit of a dark side to them, they're both willing to play dirty when they have to, and now they're going to war with each other in a Stefano-like way. I love seeing EJ in this position where he thinks he's completely in charge and in control, but has underestimated Stefan a bit. And now, it goes from cat and mouse to the gloves coming off, where it's more open warfare."

Battle lines will be drawn, with Gabi backing Stefan, and Nicole on Team EJ. "Even though Gabi is stuck with Li Shin for six months, she'll be a part of this story, too, so we're going to have these two power couples going against each other, EJ and Nicole versus Stefan and Gabi," previews the scribe. "We will see that fun side of Nicole that is the bad girl that's a little bit more like EJ and willing to play dirty, and I think she's just a really great foil for Gabi, so to see the four of them go head-to-head is going to be really, really great."

Once EJ realizes what Stefan has done, the siblings have a sit-down, where they both cop to their drugging attempts and agree to stop waging war against each other. Points out Carlivati, "When this confrontation happens, the potential of an actual, honest airing of their grievances against each other and the potential to grow from it and learn from it is there, but we're talking about EJ and Stefan DiMera, so what they're saying to each other is not necessarily what each one of them is gonna do."

Sure enough, after the chat, both Stefan and EJ privately note that they plan to do anything but play nice. "The gloves are off," nods Carlivati. "They don't need to be pretending, they don't need to be smiling to each other's face and drugging each other behind their backs. The question is, now that it is all out in the open, what will happen? Are they going to destroy each other? Are they going to be able to make some kind of a truce? It will be interesting to see how the women influence this, as well. Sometimes, the women are the voice of reason, but when it's Nicole and Gabi, we just don't know if they're necessarily going to be the voice of reason or the ones making the situation even worse by escalating it."

GH: CODY TELLS DANTE THE TRUTH ABOUT MAC

True Blood: Cody (Kelly, l.) shares his secret with Dante (Dominic Zamprogna).

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC; CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

■ Having made the decision to conceal the true results of the paternity test he and Mac took, Cody "feels like an idiot," sums up his portrayer, Josh Kelly. "He feels like he made the completely wrong decision."

Not seeing an easy way out of his lie, Cody panics when Mac drops in on him at the stables and sees the lab report. Explains Kelly, "He's considering telling Mac the truth but he is afraid that it'll ruin any chance of a relationship that he can have with Mac, kind of like how Portia kept the Trina thing a secret because she wanted to tell the truth, but didn't want to ruin what she has with Curtis. If he's going to develop more of a relationship with Mac, he doesn't want to start out on a bad foot. It's just getting more and more difficult to solve the problem that he started with the DNA test lie."

So, Cody digs himself deeper into his self-created hole. Reports the actor, "Mac doesn't read the paper, but he sees that it's from General Hospital, so Cody makes up a pity party lie about how he needed money and sold some plasma." The conversation turns to Mac's concern that killing Ryan has created a rift in his friendship with Kevin. "Cody just tries to be there for him, and before Mac leaves, he encourages him to talk with Kevin."

Cody's next guest is Dante, who picks up on Cody's angst. "Cody tries to cover it up with his typical, 'Hey, don't worry about it, it's nothing,' " Kelly says. "But Dante sees through it because Dante has known him longer than anyone. And in a moment of weakness. Cody confides in his best friend." Telling Dante the truth — that Mac *is* his father — "is really hard and really scary for him and he actually gets kind of emotional about it because he has a lot of shame."

Dante urges Cody to be honest with Mac. "His reaction is shock, then to encourage Cody to come clean, otherwise he won't ever be able to have a real relationship with Mac," Kelly notes. "He's like the moral angel on the devil's shoulder." Cody defends his dishonesty and "alludes to the fact that he and Dante have a secret, so he's kind of like, 'You're saying I have to tell the complete truth, otherwise I'll never be free, but you and I aren't telling the complete truth about our secret. So, how's it feeling up on your high horse there, Dante? How's that glass house you're living in?' "

Cody is left unsure about whether Dante will keep the news he's just learned to himself. Sighs Kelly, "In real life, my father worked for the National Security Agency, and he always used to say, 'If two people know a secret, everyone knows a secret.' Cody is *very* concerned that Dante is going to go right to Mac."

Quick Take

with Sharon Case

(Sharon, Y&R)

SONJA FLEMMING/CBS

Some would say that Sharon is currently without a story, but I see it as more that she's in a quiet transition because she was recently widowed and is finding her bearings. Your take? "I totally agree. Sharon has sort of taken a different path since losing Rey. She's still running the coffeehouse — that's a top priority for her — but she's also taking care of her daughter and daughter-in-law during their adoption journey and she's listening to Noah about his past with Audra and his current relationship with Allie. I guess you could say that for now, Sharon is everybody's touchstone."

Do you like that? "Yes, I do. I've always loved that Sharon is a natural caretaker, so I feel she's in her element. And this is a good time for her to tend to other people's needs — especially her family."

Do you miss working with Jordi Vilasuso (ex-Rey)? "Oh, very much. I was really moved by the last scene with Sharon and Rey. I really love, love, love that scene. It was just before Rey leaves the coffeehouse and he's in that [fatal] car accident. For it being the last time I was working with Jordi, it was a very sweet and beautiful scene. Both the actor and the character are such nice guys."

Well, since you brought up "moving", the scenes where Sharon helped Chelsea after her suicide attempt were also very impactful. "Thank you for saying that. It was great material to play as an actor. Sharon and Chelsea had a contentious relationship, and I thought it was beautifully written and made perfect sense that here was this broken person in front of Sharon and it was her instinct, especially as a psychologist, to help. Sharon had no problem forgetting their past in that moment in order to be the rock, along with Billy, that Chelsea needed."

How do you like working with Melissa Claire Egan (Chelsea) in this context? "I love working with Missy and I appreciate what an amazing job she's doing. I remember a little while back when this storyline was just starting and we had a scene in the coffeehouse where Chelsea gets angry and kind of shoved a chair. That's when Sharon first began wondering if something was going on with Chelsea, and this was before her breakdown. I remember telling Missy on that day, 'You know, that was a great scene.' She has been doing such beautiful work ever since."

Would you like to see more scenes between Sharon and Chelsea? "Yes, definitely. They broke down a barrier they had not broken down before and they're in a position to be more like friends now. I think that because of what recently happened, it kind of levels the playing field a little bit for both of them. I believe that their relationship has changed for the better and it could go anywhere from here."

EARLY EDITIONS!

A preview of next week's stories.

B&B's Deacon (Sean Kanan)

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

- Sheila becomes worried, believing Bill knows her secret.
- **Deacon gets protective of Hope.**
- Bill takes another step forward with Sheila.

GH's Elizabeth (Rebecca Herbst)

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

GENERAL HOSPITAL

- Valentin and Anna clash.
- Dante is concerned for Sonny.
- **Elizabeth faces the music.**

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

- Jack receives a surprise houseguest.
- Adam pushes Nick's buttons.
- Nikki is ready for her close up.
- **Jill does damage control.**

Y&R's Jill (Jess Walton)

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

- Nicole offers to help Gabi and Stefan.
- Talia and Jada catch up.
- **Abe and Paulina have a reason to celebrate.**
- Brady visits Kristen at Statesville.

Abe (James Reynolds) and Paulina (Jackée Harry)

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

RATINGS RACE: WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13

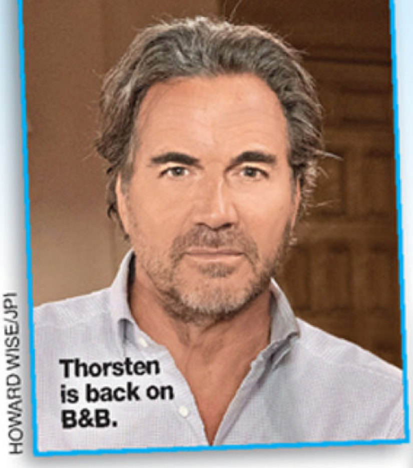
The numbers listed after each show are ratings points. Each ratings point represents 1,238,000 homes. These numbers now reflect DVR playback within the same day.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS	2.24
BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL	2.07
GENERAL HOSPITAL	1.52

** DAYS's ratings are not available from Peacock.*

NIELSEN MEDIA RESEARCH

the latest Cast Changes



HOWARD WISE/JPI

Thorsten is back on B&B.

who's coming

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

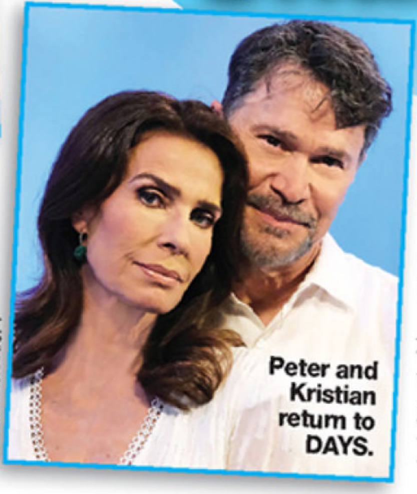
Thorsten Kaye (Ridge Forrester): The actor will return to the canvas on March 15 after a brief absence.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Kristian Alfonso (Hope Williams Brady): Alfonso is back on screen on March 17.

Victoria Konefal (Ciara Brady): Head Writer **Ron Carlivati** reveals that the actress, who last aired in July 2022, will be a part of the upcoming storyline with Ciara's on-screen parents.

Colton Little (Andrew Donovan): Little, who made his debut in BEYOND SALEM: CHAPTER 2, will now appear on the "mothership" beginning March 16 in scenes with Steve (**Stephen Nichols**).



XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Peter and Kristian return to DAYS.

Peter Reckell (Bo Brady): Reckell, whose Bo was shown to be alive in BEYOND SALEM: CHAPTER 2, returns on March 16.

Christopher Sean (Paul Narita): John (**Drake Hogestyn**) goes to visit his son in San Francisco on March 16. Sean was last seen in BEYOND SALEM: CHAPTER 2.

Robert Scott Wilson (Ben Weston): Wilson, who is currently airing as Alex Kiriakis, will reprise the role of his first Salem character, Ben, as part of Bo and Hope's storyline.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Stephen A. Smith (Brick): Sonny's (**Maurice Benard**) associate is back on the Port Charles scene this week.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Mishael Morgan (Amanda Sinclair): The legal eagle returns to Genoa City this week. "I realized right after I had gone off contract that the 50th was coming up and I was like, 'Oh, shoot!' " she shares. "But then I remembered that Amanda is still alive and it all worked out that I could be here for this iconic period."

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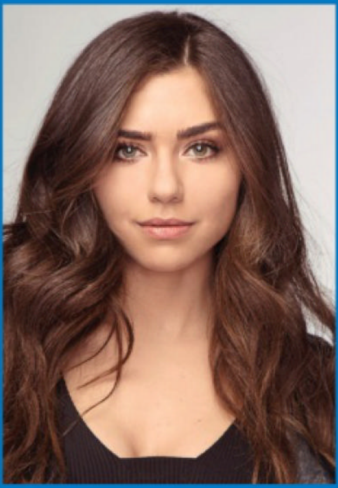
WHEN CALLS THE HEART RENEWED

■ Months before Hallmark's WHEN CALLS THE HEART kicks off its 10th season in July, the series was picked up for an additional 11th season, which was music to **Jack Wagner**'s (Bill; ex-Frisco, GH et al, l.) ears. "We are all super-grateful for the Hallmark Channel for investing in this show," praises the actor. "We're so beyond grateful. It's a show that is smart and heartwarming and it speaks to what our world needs, which is family-oriented, and it is something that all generations can watch together, and that is something special."

CASTING ABOUT

Victoria Konefal (Ciara, DAYS, r.) has joined the cast of the horror flick *Scared to Death*.... **Mary Elizabeth Winstead** (ex-Jessica, PASSIONS) is set to star opposite husband **Ewan McGregor** in Showtime and Paramount+'s upcoming limited series A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW.... **Blair Underwood** (ex-Bobby, ONE LIFE TO LIVE) and **Finn Wittrock** (ex-Damon, ALL MY CHILDREN) have been added to **Ava DuVernay**'s latest film, *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, based on the bestseller of the same name by Pulitzer Prize winner **Isabel Wilkerson**....



HOWARD WISE/JPI

Meredith Hagner (ex-Liberty, AS THE WORLD TURNS) will star in Hulu's GIRLSHOW.... B&B vet **Sean Whalen** (ex-Carl) will star opposite **Alan Ruck** in the horror-comedy *Crust*, which Whalen will direct and produce. The duo previously appeared together in the box office hit *Twister*.... **Redaric Williams** (ex-Tyler, Y&R) has recently wrapped the sci-fi flick *Athena*.... **Tyler Johnson** (ex-Theo, Y&R) has been cast in the movie drama *Runaway*.... **David Lee Russek** (ex-Sean, Y&R) has finished filming *The Path*, a thriller set for release later this year.

SWEENEY, MATHISON
RE-TEAM FOR HALLMARK

KATIE YU/CROWN MEDIA UNITED STATES, LLC

Alison Sweeney (ex-Sami, DAYS), **Cameron Mathison** (Drew, GH) and **Barbara Niven** (ex-Liz, ONE LIFE TO LIVE, all r.) are hard at work on a new installment of the popular Hannah Swensen series, CARROT CAKE: A HANNAH SWENSEN MYSTERY, premiering later this year on Hallmark Movies & Mysteries. Original cast member **Gabriel Hogan** also returns in this latest installment; Sweeney serves as executive producer. "The adventures of Hannah Swensen have long been a favorite among our viewers and we're thrilled to bring them a new mystery they can try to solve at home along with Hannah," said **Elizabeth Yost**, Senior Vice President, Development, Hallmark Media. "Being able to reunite Alison Sweeney, Cameron Mathison and Barbara Niven for this latest installment makes it even sweeter." Sweeney added, "The fans of Hannah Swensen are incredible and we are so excited to make more mysteries to share with them. Plus, working together again with Cam and Barbara is so much fun." In the story, the discovery of a skeleton amid the rubble of a building undergoing renovation reveals that one of Lake Eden's beloved citizens is not who he claimed to be. Much to the dismay of her fiancé, Detective Mike Kingston (Mathison), Hannah begins to investigate the case on her own. As she tries to piece together the events that led to the murder and tries to learn the victim's true identity, Hannah even calls on her mother, Delores (Niven), as she works to bring the killer to justice and uncover the truth.

Hot Plots Pr

GENERAL HOSPITAL
Sonny And Dex Are Ambushed

What Sonny and Dex think is going to be a routine security check of the warehouse where their imminent meeting about the Pikeman deal is scheduled to take place takes a shocking turn when a gunman opens fire on them.

"Because of Dex's background in the military and his time in Afghanistan, he has a keen eye and catches a sniper out of the corner of his eye," sets up Evan Hofer (Dex). "It's a situation where they have to figure out how they're going to get out of this, together. Dex tackles Sonny to try to get him out of the way; I think his first instinct is to protect people over himself, whether it's Sonny or otherwise, but I think it's also a sign of how much he has started to care about Sonny."

Sonny also leaps to action to safeguard Dex, which does not go unnoticed by the young man who is secretly working with Michael to take him down. Sums up Hofer, "Not only does he save Sonny, but Sonny saves him. And Dex doesn't take it lightly."

A Hero Lies Within: Dex (Hofer) and Sonny (Maurice Benard) face a life-or-death crisis.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

Talk To Me: Sheila (Brown) is finding it difficult to communicate to Bill (Don Diamont).

HOWARD WISE/JPI

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL
Sheila Covers With Bill

Sheila worries that Bill knows she has feelings for Deacon. "Sheila's heart is torn at this moment," begins Kimberlin Brown (Sheila). "She would like things to be all about Bill but she cannot get over the connection she established with Deacon. She can't shake that and to be honest, I'm not sure she wants to shake that."

Bill asks her to have a sit-down, where they are honest with each other. He shares all of the dirty deeds from his past, including throwing Ridge out of a helicopter in the Persian Gulf. Though Bill has opened up to her, Sheila has trouble doing the same with him. "Sheila is trying desperately to make things all about Bill, [but] there are times in life where you can't shake what the heart wants, and her heart screams for Deacon," Brown sighs. "Sheila is incredibly loyal to those who help her, which is why she wants to make things work with Bill, but there is something more going on behind the scenes. She can't seem to get that close with Bill, but yet she can with Deacon. That is something only time will be able to tell."

eview! What Will Happen

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Elena Confronts Nate

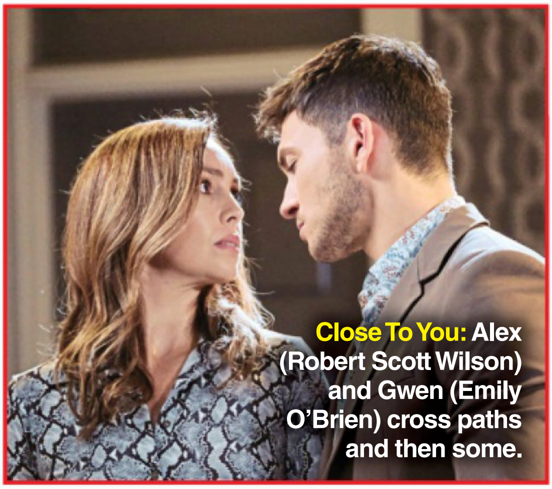
Elena goes on high alert about Nate and Victoria after Audra mentions their growing closeness. "Elena has had a few uneasy feelings when it comes to witnessing Nate's new dynamic with Victoria," notes Brytni Sarpy (Elena). "When Audra reconfirms this faint suspicion Elena already had in the back of her mind, it brings everything to the forefront. While Elena trusts the sincerity of Audra's observation, she doesn't trust the intention behind it."

Elena confronts Nate and asks what's going on between him and Victoria. Nate assures her that their relationship is strictly professional. Sarpy shares, "Elena has never known Nate to blatantly lie to her but after his initial denial, she's more aware of the amount of time Nate and Victoria are spending together."

Elena backs down — for the time being. "Elena wants to trust the man she has been building a life with," says Sarpy. "However, she can't ignore the growing intimacy between Nate and Victoria, so Elena will ultimately trust her intuition."

Work It Out: Elena (Sarpy) wants to clarify Nate's (Sean Dominic) job duties.

HOWARD WISE/JPI



Close To You: Alex (Robert Scott Wilson) and Gwen (Emily O'Brien) cross paths and then some.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Gwen And Alex Kiss!

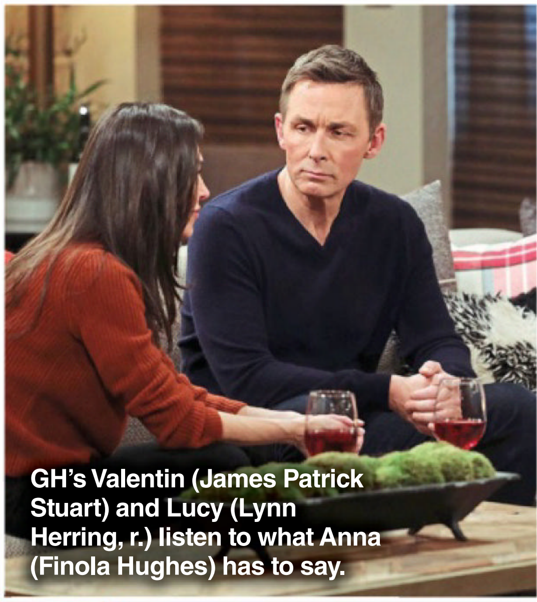
After getting rejected by Xander, Gwen finds a new friend in Alex, who has troubles of his own. "Gwen has been trying to find her place in the world," notes Head Writer Ron Carlivati. "She has been a little bit adrift; she helped Xander and now he's made it clear that he's not sure if he wants to be with her or can be with her. At the same time Alex lost Stephanie and he ends up clashing with Maggie at Titan, so these two people who are in kind of a rocky place meet up and it's going to be interesting to see what happens between Alex and Gwen. It's sort of an unlikely pair, but if you really kind of look at the two characters, it's really not as unlikely as it might seem at first blush."

The two wind up in a kiss, and where it goes from here, Carlivati teases, "Is this a potential couple who could be potentially dangerous together? We know Alex is a bit of a player and a wild card, so it's going to be fun to see the two of them together."

sneak peek

1st LOOK photos

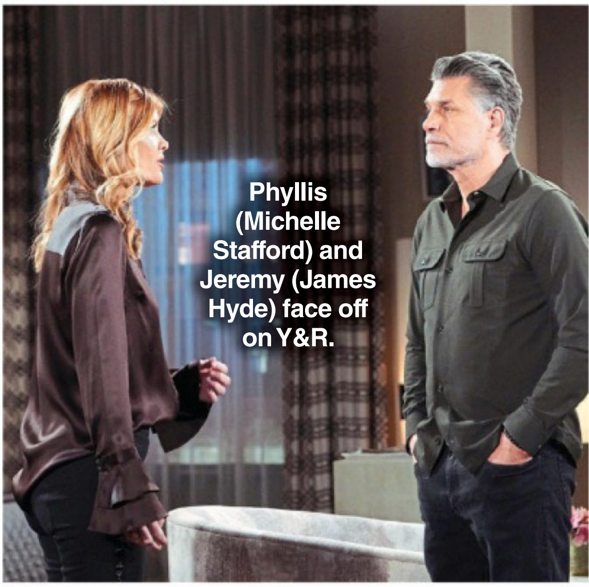
A glimpse of what's coming up in the week ahead!


CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

GH's Valentin (James Patrick Stuart) and Lucy (Lynn Herring, r.) listen to what Anna (Finola Hughes) has to say.

PHOTOS: XJ JOHNSON/JPI

DAYS's Johnny (Carson Boatman, l.) and Nicole (Arianne Zucker) give EJ (Dan Feuerriegel) a lift.

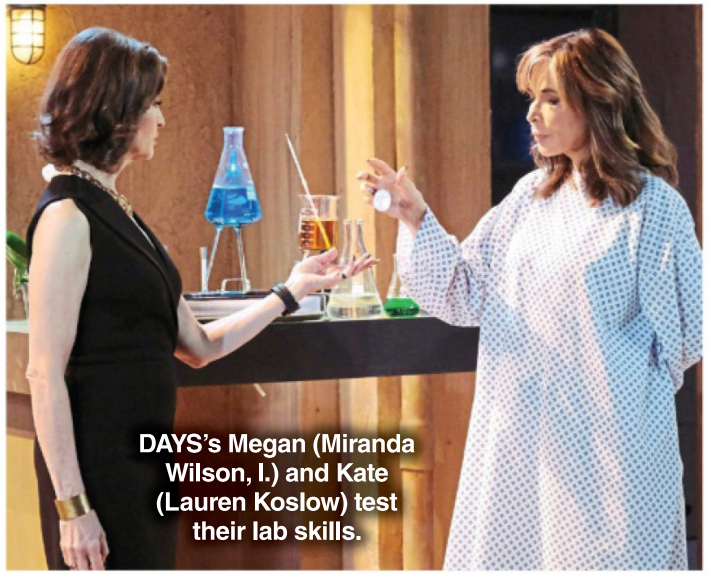

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Phyllis (Michelle Stafford) and Jeremy (James Hyde) face off on Y&R.

DAYS's Belle (Martha Madison) and Shawn (Brandon Beemer) get closer.

Tucker (Trevor St. John) and Audra (Zuleyka Silver) have a staring contest on Y&R.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

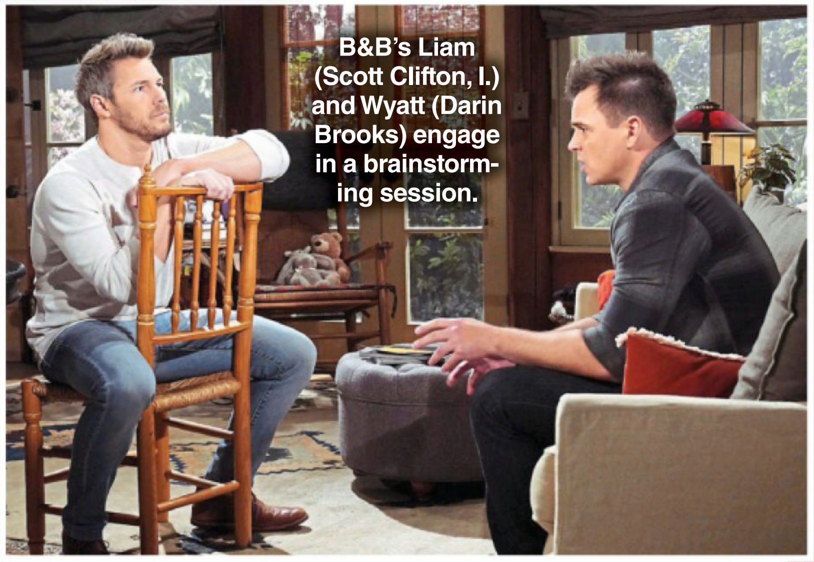


DAYS's Megan (Miranda Wilson, l.) and Kate (Lauren Koslow) test their lab skills.

Y&R's Victoria (Amelia Heinle) ponders her coffee order.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Marlena (Deidre Hall, far l.) and Kayla (Mary Beth Evans) listen to Rolf (Richard Wharton) on DAYS.



B&B's Liam (Scott Clifton, l.) and Wyatt (Darin Brooks) engage in a brainstorming session.

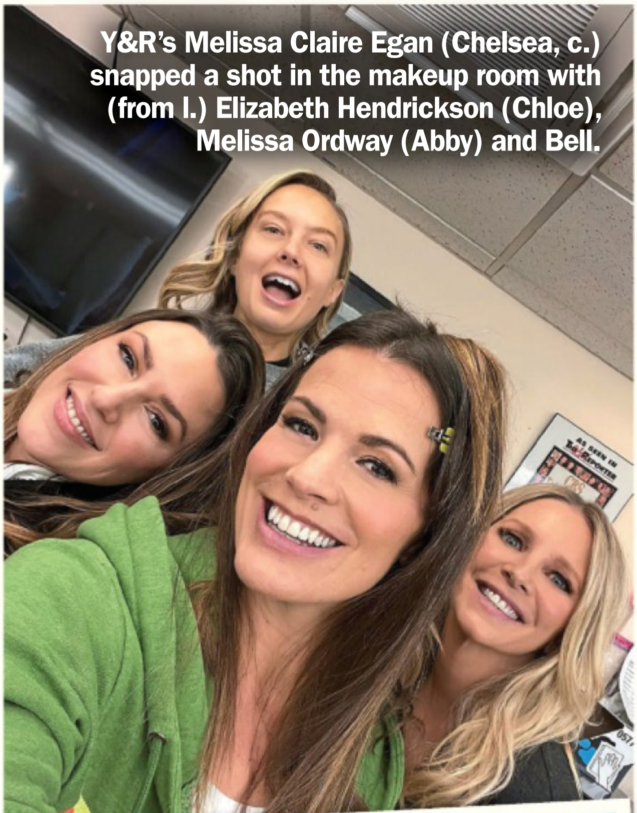
HOWARD WISE/JPI

BEHIND the SCENES!

Social snaps of stars on set.

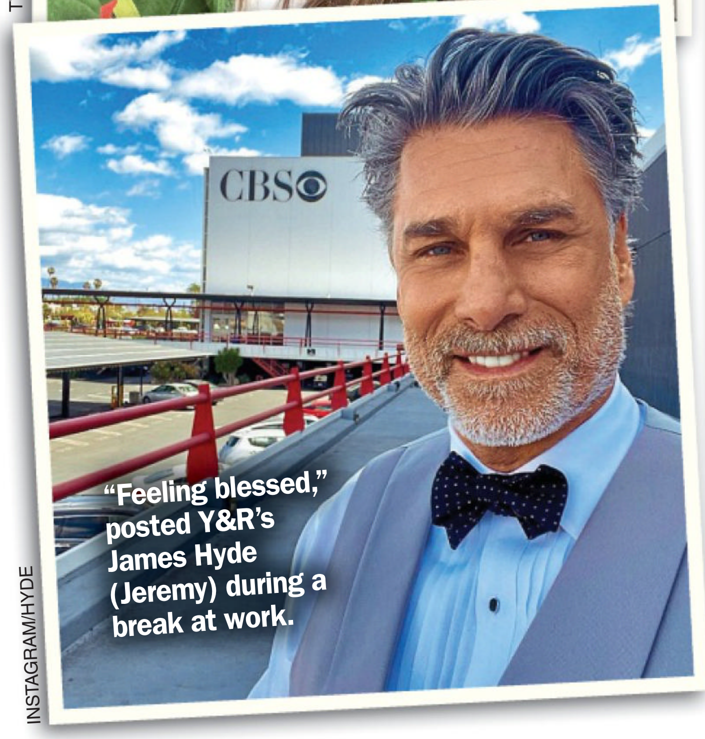
“Amazing time filming the #YR50 shows with the fabulous @lauralee_bell [Christine, r.] & @triciacast [Nina],” enthused Michael Damian (Danny).

INSTAGRAM/DAMIAN



Y&R’s Melissa Claire Egan (Chelsea, c.) snapped a shot in the makeup room with (from l.) Elizabeth Hendrickson (Chloe), Melissa Ordway (Abby) and Bell.

TWITTER/EGAN



“Feeling blessed,” posted Y&R’s James Hyde (Jeremy) during a break at work.

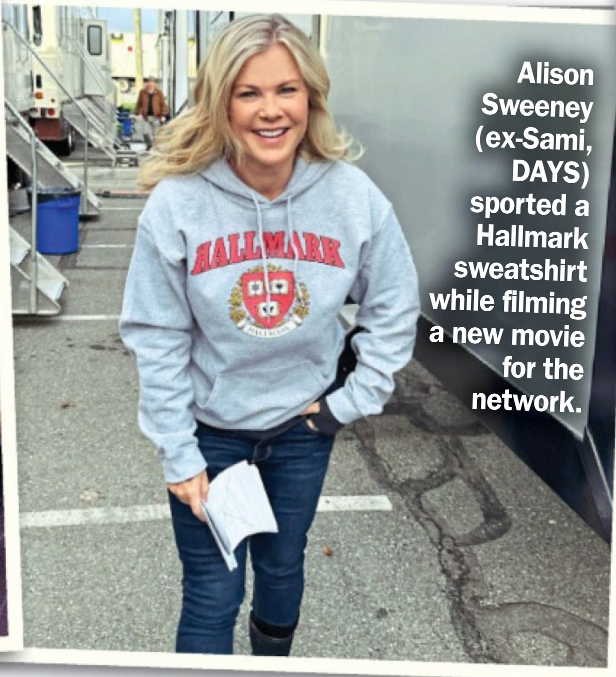
INSTAGRAM/HYDE

Obba Babatundé (ex-Julius, B&B) posed on the set of S.W.A.T. with Rochelle Aytes.

TWITTER/BABATUNDÉ

GH's Réal Andrews (Taggert, r.) took a pic with Donnell Turner (Curtis) and Tabyana Ali (Trina).

INSTAGRAM/ANDREWS



Alison Sweeney (ex-Sami, DAYS) sported a Hallmark sweatshirt while filming a new movie for the network.

INSTAGRAM/SWEENEY

Michelle Stafford (Phyllis, Y&R) showed off her look for the 50th anniversary celebration on screen.

INSTAGRAM/STAFFORD

Jophielle Love (Violet, GH) got hair and makeup ready on the set of Netflix's WE HAVE A GHOST.

INSTAGRAM/LOVE

GH's Eden McCoy (Josslyn) and Evan Hofer (Dex) struck a similar pose.

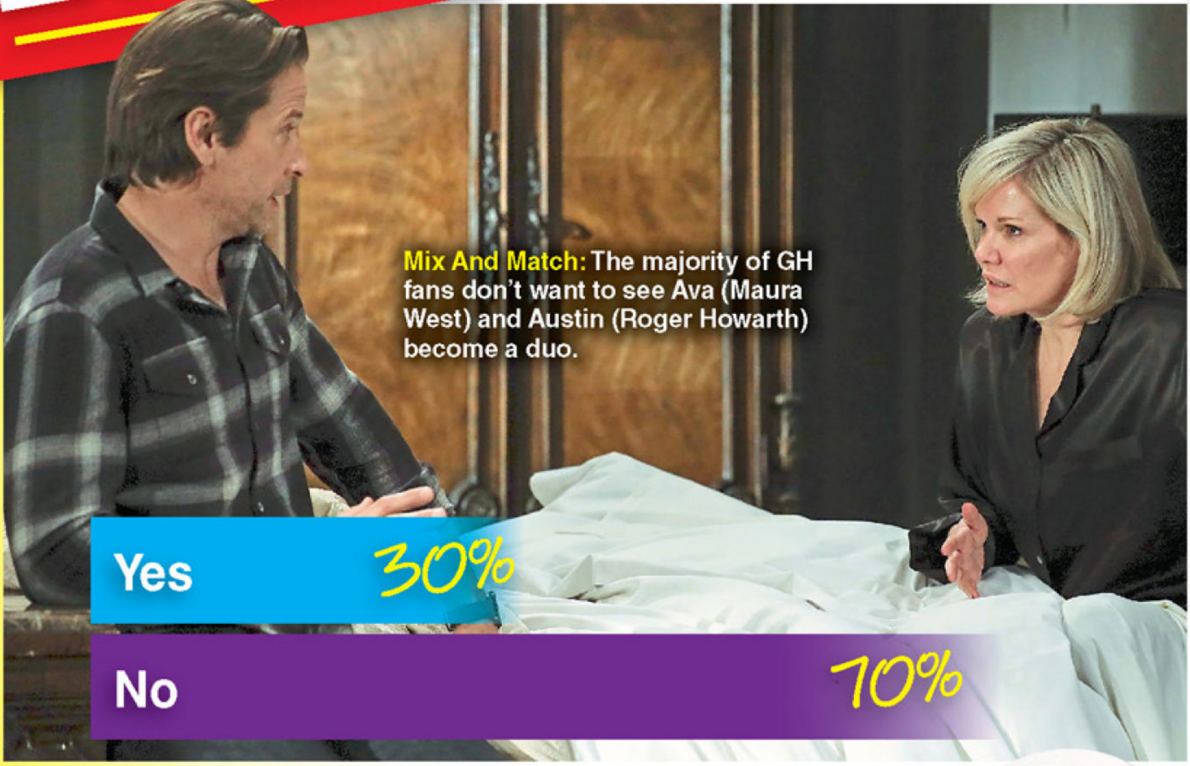
TWITTER/HOFER

EXTRA! EXTRA!

snap POLL

Readers of soapoperadigest.com weigh in.

Should GH explore an Ava/Austin romance?



Mix And Match: The majority of GH fans don't want to see Ava (Maura West) and Austin (Roger Howarth) become a duo.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

trend temperature

	GH's Next Generation	Back-In-Action DiMera (DAYS)	DAYS Destinations
HOT	Ace	Megan	Chicago
WARM	Amelia	Stefan	Boston
COLD	Bailey	EJ	New Zealand

STAR SHOTS OF THE WEEK

"Sharing hat hair with a Woolly Mammoth," reported Jon Lindstrom (Kevin, GH). "Skiing baby!"

INSTAGRAM/LINDSTROM

Ronn Moss (ex-Ridge, B&B, I.) ran into comedian Rob Schneider at the airport.

INSTAGRAM/MOSS

Y&R's Catherine Bach (ex-Anita) and Christian J. LeBlanc (Michael) showed off their crown jewels.

INSTAGRAM/LEBLANC

B&B's Don Diamont (Bill) made some long-necked pals.

INSTAGRAM/DIAMONT

Patrick Muldoon (ex-Austin, DAYS) hammed it up at famed burger joint Black Tap in New York City while there promoting Liam Neeson's new film, *Marlowe*, in which Muldoon is an executive producer.

Record This

your handy guide to must-see episodes

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

Bold And Beautiful

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

On **Monday, March 13**, Liam is in for a shock.... Douglas has a decision to make on **Tuesday, March 14**.... On **Wednesday, March 15**, Deacon (r.) overhears an unsettling conversation.... B&B will be pre-empted on **Thursday, March 16** and **Friday, March 17** for NCAA Tournament coverage.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Days Of Our Lives

Familiar Faces

On **Monday, March 13**, Wendy is angry with Johnny when Tripp reveals the stunt he pulled, and Li does his best to charm Gabi.... Leo returns home to a stunning sight, and Belle and Sloan team up to help Eric and Brady on **Tuesday, March 14**.... On **Wednesday, March 15**, Johnny attempts to do the right thing, and Alex rips into Leo (both l.).... Roman extends an olive branch to Lucas; Marlena and Kayla worry when they realize Kate is missing; and John visits Paul in San Francisco, while Steve seeks help from Andrew on **Thursday, March 16**.... On **Friday, March 17**, Steve and John's search leads them to an old friend — Hope, and Andrew visits with Paul to speak about their relationship.

General Hospital

Shock Value

Victor gets shocking information; Josslyn and Bobbie have a heart-to-heart; and Carly (r.) runs interference on **Monday, March 13**.... On **Tuesday, March 14**, Laura is put on the spot; Lucy is impatient; and Maxie and Brook Lynn are dubious.... Kristina opens up on **Wednesday, March 15**, while Esme gets a surprise visit, and Elizabeth and Portia catch up.... On **Thursday, March 16**, Nina gets a reality check; Chase offers comfort; and Trina explains her strategy.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

Young And Restless

March Madness

On **Monday, March 13**, Phyllis puts her plan in motion.... Victoria has a proposition for Nate on **Tuesday, March 14**, while Sally is haunted by her past, and Lauren calls Phyllis's bluff.... On **Wednesday, March 15**, Victor makes a shocking discovery, and Nick (r.) gives Adam a painful reminder.... Y&R will be pre-empted on **Thursday, March 16** and **Friday, March 17** for NCAA Tournament coverage.

TV TIME

DEAN BUSCHER/THE CW; JASPER SAVAGE/THE CW

On **Tuesday, March 14**, SUPERMAN & LOIS, featuring GH vet Erik Valdez (ex-Trey, l.), launches its third season premiere. Then, it's the series premiere of GOTHAM KNIGHTS featuring DAYS vet Olivia Rose Keegan (ex-Claire, bottom l.).... On **Thursday, March 16**, on STATION 19, a simulation fire training goes dangerously wrong; Maya tries to make amends; Bailey encourages Carina to listen; and Jack's sister shows up at the station with a friend, an injury and an attitude. On GREY'S ANATOMY, Catherine returns to Grey Sloan for a surgical case that makes Lucas and Blue queasy; Amelia treats a possible cancer patient with a family that's a little too supportive; and Owen takes his medical future into his own hands, much to Teddy's surprise. The young adult drama GOOD TROUBLE, executive produced by B&B vet Joanna Johnson (ex-Caroline/ex-Karen), kicks off its fifth season.... On **Saturday, March 18**, Kristoffer Polaha (ex-Jason, NORTH SHORE) stars with Nadia Hatta in Hallmark Channel's A WINNING TEAM.... On **Sunday, March 19**, on THE WAY HOME, Alice says good-bye to the past, knowing she needs to make a life in the present; Kat tries to stop her father's death; and Del revisits memories in a new light.

Please Note: These are the scheduled air dates, released to us by the networks and TV production companies at press time. Due to last-minute pre-emptions, actual air dates may vary.

editors' choice

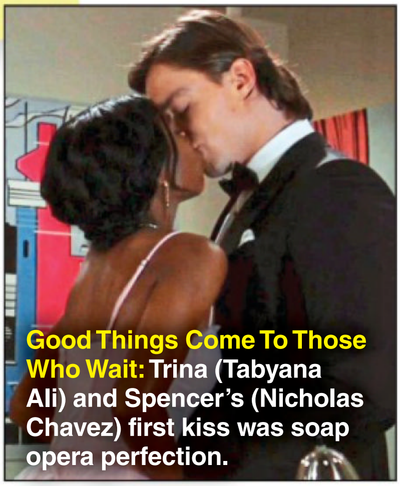
Digest Salutes The Best In Soaps

Shock And Awww,

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Over the years, as audience-measuring practices have evolved, traditional sweeps periods have given way to year-round fireworks, and the GH writers made it a February to remember, bringing in multiple stories for epic landings, making for jaw-droppingly powerful TV.

The fun (for viewers, at least) began with the Curtis/Portia wedding at the Metro Court. It went off without a hitch, once Portia decided she *could* live with saying, “I do” (as opposed to, “I do ... not know who Trina’s father is”). But something about Stella’s no-show status didn’t sit right with Trina, so once the ceremony was over, she sneaked out to check up on Curtis’s aunt. When she subsequently showed up at the reception, her eyes blazing with righteous anger, Portia knew the jig was up and during a private confab with her daughter, she delivered the bombshell news that she may be Curtis’s biological daughter, not Taggert’s. Brook Kerr (Portia) and Tabyana Ali (Trina) magnificently navigated the high degree of emotional difficulty in scenes that perfectly captured both women’s points of view — and when Curtis and Taggert showed up wearing matching expressions of grave concern, Trina addressed the man who was her father in every way that counts: “Mom says I may not be your daughter.” She fled, and Taggert followed, assuring her, “You have been, and you always will be, my daughter. My baby girl. I’m here, okay? I’m not going nowhere.”


Good Things Come To Those Who Wait: Trina (Tabyana Ali) and Spencer’s (Nicholas Chavez) first kiss was soap opera perfection.

ABC

While Portia received a far less gentle reading of the riot act by Curtis, Spencer assumed Trina-comforting duties, which led to the “Sprina” first kiss well over a year in the making. It was, in a word, perfection. From the setting (the gallery, where they first met) to the swoon-worthy dialogue (Trina: “I don’t know who I am anymore.” Spencer: “I know who you are ... You’re blunt. Good god, you’re blunt.... But you’re big-hearted. You’re fair and you’re forgiving”), the build to the buss was as off the charts as the sparks that flew when their lips (finally!) met. *This* is how you do soap romance, ladies and gentlemen.

We could (and would) go on and on, if it wasn’t for the fact that all of this was only the tip of the show’s dramatic iceberg, as a giddy Ryan and Heather (with their amnesiac, petrified and super-pregnant daughter, Esme, in tow) were simultaneously making their escape from Spring Ridge. Ryan (Jon Lindstrom at his most delicious) was tickled pink when Mac tried to stop them (“Now that felt good!” he exulted after knocking his old foe unconscious) and off they sped to Wyndemere, where the two beautiful, blonde objects of his epically twisted fixation (Ava and Felicia) just so happened to be together.

It would be an understatement to say that chaos ensued. In short order, Heather gave Austin the hook, Heather’s status as a serial killer was revealed (Felicia: "You're the lunatic that's been killing people with a hook?!" Heather: "Guilty as charged, your highness!"), and Esme made a run for it, with Ryan hot on her heels — and wouldn't you know it, she promptly went into labor.

The A-game performances continued as Heather (the brilliant Alley Mills) handed a gun to Ava and advised her to use it to finish off Ryan. When she caught up to them, Ryan gave Ava (who thought she was already at maximum angst, with Nik's corpse back at the house!) a history lesson about how he'd masterminded Esme's seduction of Nikolas. Somehow, some way, Maura West (Ava) found shades of fury she had yet to show us as Ava tried to process that the man who murdered her daughter hadn't stopped there in destroying her life. "I needed Kiki, I needed Nikolas. And they're both gone because of you!" she bellowed.

While Esme stumbled back to Wyndemere for her own round of life-changing events (on the plus side, baby Ace arrived safely; on the negative side, she learned Heather was her mother), a bullet ripped through Ryan's chest, courtesy of Mac, killing him — for real, this time. (On GH, only a zipped-up body bag, which was seen here, is proof of that.) In a poignant moment decades in the making, Felicia approached Kevin as he gazed upon his twin's corpse, granting him permission to grieve despite the hell Ryan had put her, and so many others, through: "He was still your brother," she told him through her tears.

The excellence of these episodes was very much a group effort, the combination of top-notch pacing, insightful dialogue, taut directing and impassioned performances. To a person, the artists responsible for its execution have much to be proud of. ☐

performer of the week

Annika Noelle

(HOPE, B&B)

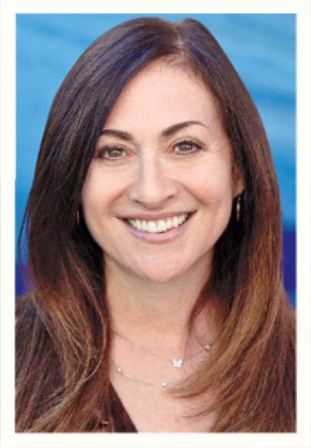
HOWARD WISE/JPI

■ When Hope had to surrender custody of Douglas, who chose to live with Steffy rather than choose between his mother and father, the character's heartbreak and agony was brought to vivid life by Annika Noelle.

Hope had remained strong in the face of Douglas's decision; she wanted what was best for her son and if that was his wish, she would not stand in his way. But through crinkled eyes and the wavering of her brave smile, Noelle left no question as to whether Hope was dying inside. Hope said all the right things, encouraging and loving as she reassured Douglas that she would always be there for him. But once the child left the room, Noelle revealed the depth of Hope's despair. Free of the burden of putting on a show of optimism for Douglas, Hope's voice cracked and the emotional restraint Noelle had shown suddenly gave way to a torrent of gut-wrenching vulnerability and raw pain. She kept her gaze to the sky, trying desperately not to cry, but the tactic failed. Flailing her hands, trying to give herself air and remain calm, Noelle wordlessly conveyed that Hope had reached her breaking point. Gasping for breath, her face began to crumple and her voice came out in a trembly squeak as she copped to feeling rejected by Douglas's choice "not to live with us, the family that we have built together". She beseeched Steffy to take good care of her son, and when Steffy pulled her into an empathetic embrace, Hope disintegrated, convulsing in tears as the gravity of her searing loss overwhelmed her.

Noelle built the performance masterfully, steering Hope's emotional vicissitudes with precision, but the work on the screen by no means felt technical. Indeed, what made it so impactful was how very heartfelt and emotionally naked it was.

editor's note


JIM WARREN

Dear Readers,

It's a big week for DAYS: The show is welcoming back superstars Kristian Alfonso (Hope) and Peter Reckell (Bo) for a fun arc that ropes in a host of characters and returns for Steve Burton's Harris, Victoria Konefal's Ciara and Robert Scott Wilson pulling double duty as Alex, his current alter ego, and Ben, the one he played until last July. I'm completely on board for this tale and on page 4, Head Writer Ron Carlivati previews what's ahead. Will you be tuning in? Let us know at SODsound@soapoperadigest.com.

Getting a soap job is a big deal for any actor, but staying on one for years and carving out a career doing them is an amazing feat. On page 42, a slew of stars open up about how their lives have changed since getting their daytime gig.

Playing a cop on a soap can be a pretty thankless profession; more often than not, law enforcement doesn't solve the crimes so that the hero or heroine can. On page 48, four actors open up about the highs and lows of wearing a badge.

I always love hearing about actors who are real-life pals. In the Roundup on page 36, find out which former co-stars are still in touch.

Stephanie Sloane

Stephanie Sloane,
VP, Editorial Director

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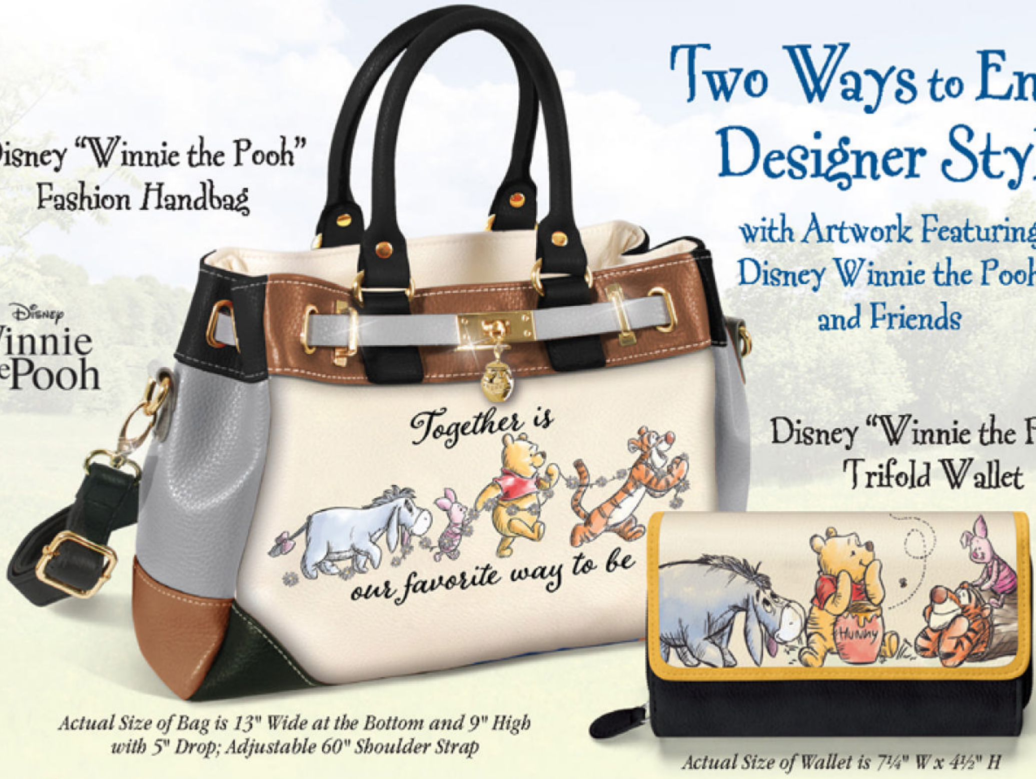
Two Ways to Enjoy Designer Style

with Artwork Featuring Disney Winnie the Pooh and Friends

Disney Winnie the Pooh



Disney "Winnie the Pooh" Fashion Handbag

Actual Size of Bag is 13" Wide at the Bottom and 9" High with 5" Drop; Adjustable 60" Shoulder Strap

Disney "Winnie the Pooh" Trifold Wallet

Actual Size of Wallet is 7¼" W x 4½" H

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E97801

By Carolyn Hinsey

It's Only My Opinion

Daytime's most outspoken columnist!

Follow Carolyn on Twitter @carolynhinsey

■ Juicy scenes of drama and betrayal work every time, but they hit harder when they're real.

■ Like GH using Portia's bridal suite with her bed covered in rose petals as the location for her confession that Curtis, not Taggert, could be Trina's bio dad.

Trina: "I don't know who I am, but I sure as hell don't know who you are."

Knock, knock! It's Curtis and Taggert.

Curtis: "Am I Trina's father?"

Portia: "I don't know."

The champagne glasses in the foreground were a clever way to remind us that it was still Curtis and Portia's wedding day as Portia dissolved in tears. Trina stormed out to find Spencer and they wound up at Ava's art gallery where they shared their first kiss — a nice reminder that love can still triumph even in moments of great pain.

Spencer: "Do you have any idea how long I've wanted this?"

The audience: *Yes.*

Portia's life falling apart just as a "catatonic" Ryan regained his was a nice juxtaposition, and you don't get more dramatic than Esme going into labor while Ava is threatening to blow Ryan's head off. In the end, Mac stepped in to kill Ryan and personally zip him into a body bag.

Mac *(to Ava)***:** "Ryan Chamberlain's reign of terror has come to an end."

> **Juicy scenes of drama and betrayal work every time, but they hit harder when they're real.**

And of *course* Heather was The Hook. Part of me thought GH would change the identity of the serial killer based on the popularity of nutballs Heather and Ryan together, but they stayed the course.

Laura: "Heather is the killer? She was locked up!"

The mayor should really do something about that.

■ The lead-up to Y&R's Sally finding out which Newman brother fathered her child was very dramatic, but it turned out to be fake. The scenarios we watched were just in her head.

Sally *(to Adam)***:** "I'm pregnant. Nick is not the father. You are. This is the last thing I wanted, to be caught between two brothers."

The best way to avoid that is to not sleep with two brothers on the same day ... Her imagined fight between Nick and Adam was predictable, but I did appreciate how the humorless Sally nailed Victor's response in her vision.

Victor *(to Adam)***:** "Desperation does not become you."

Sally's dream of Nick being the father also resulted in the hammer coming down from The Mustache.

Victor *(to Sally)***:** "Congratulations. You came to town without anything. Nothing.

Gone But Not Forgotten: Leave it to DAYS's Anna (Leann Hunley) to share her *bon mots* with an urn — again.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Now you get the big prize, the eldest Newman boy."

Nick: "You better get on board or you will never know this child."

I wish Sally's visions had been the real thing, because the actual reveal that Adam was the dad was anticlimactic.

Sally *(to Adam)*: "This changes nothing."

Then what was the point? They missed a *giant* opportunity by not having Sally lie that the baby was Nick's. We watched that girl scheme up and down L.A. on B&B. That's her wheelhouse and it would have made a juicier story.

Conversely, Ashley and Jack's knock-down, drag-outs drip with betrayal and I could watch her diss Tucker all day. But Y&R keeps inserting business into the action which stops it cold. Those scenes about Jabot's "anti-aging products" and "chemical reactions" were torture, saved only by Ashley at the end.

Allie: "Life isn't perfect."

Ashley: "But your makeup can be."

■ Speaking of makeup, the afterlife sure has a top-notch hair, makeup, lighting and costume department, doesn't it? The "late" Marlena, Kayla and Kate have never looked better on DAYS. Meanwhile, there's lots of drama here on earth but it doesn't mean anything because we know those divas will return.

John: "Beautiful service, man."

Patch: "So was Marlena's. And Kate's. Three funerals, it's just ..."

John: "... overwhelming."

Cut to the women in Cloudland discussing how they're going to plead their case to the devil who — shocker! — had Doug's face. Turns out, they are the kind of dead where Kayla can sneak off and pay Patch a "little visit" which gave her the positive outlook she needed to buck up her fellow zombies.

Kate: "I'm more of a soul's half empty kind of gal."

The humor is heavenly and the mourning back in Salem is believable but it's *so hard* to watch Marlena "die" over and over and not have John at least acknowledge that she's come back every single other time.

John: "We'll never see Doc on this planet again."

Guess again.

Give me Anna talking to Kate's urn every time.

Anna: "Kate are you there? It's Anna. I'll do all the talking."

Ha!

■ Accountability is important for dramatic realness, and it looks like B&B's Thomas might *finally* be getting some now that Douglas has chosen to live with his aunt.

Thomas: "Hope doesn't trust me and she has Liam in her ear disparaging me."

Eric: "No one to blame for that but you, son."

Steffy delivered a similar message.

Thomas: "You're going to keep me away from my son?"

Steffy: "You're the one who screwed up."

Thomas: "I'm his father."

Steffy: "I made a promise to Hope."

Thomas: "What does Hope have to do with this?"

Steffy: "Hope is his mother."

Thomas: "And I'm his father."

Finn kicked Thomas out, probably because he repeats himself so much.

Elsewhere, Hope returned to an empty house while the camera panned to her son's picture.

Hope: "I miss Douglas so much already!"

Um, Hope? You have another kid. Her name is Beth. Go check the "other room".

Meanwhile, Hope's mother has abandoned the drama for a kumbaya with rival Taylor which feels fake unless they're becoming a couple.

Brooke: "You're beautiful, understanding, compassionate."

Taylor: "You are beautiful inside and out."

"Braylor"? "Trooke"? I don't see it.

Deacon: "Are you sure there isn't one catfight left?"

That's better!

■ Hey. It's only my opinion. ☐

ERAS in

NEW FEATURE

GH's **Michael Easton** (Finn) reflects on the various chapters of his unorthodox run in Port Charles.

By Mara Levinsky

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

2012-13

Easton made his GH debut as John McBain, the cop he played on ONE LIFE TO LIVE from 2003-12. Recalls the actor, "When ONE LIFE TO LIVE ended, we were all very saddened by that. It was sort of like the party broke up and everybody was, metaphorically speaking, wandering around aimlessly at 5 a.m., not knowing what to do with their lives." After relocating to California from New York, Executive Producer Frank Valentini, who had been his boss at OLTL, approached him (along with a handful of other Llanview expats) to reprise McBain on GH. "There were some things that I really loved about it. It didn't feel like a square peg in a round hole because they had done some things to make it

Missed Connection: Easton enjoyed playing McBain opposite Kelly Monaco (Sam).

HOWARD WISE/JPI

JUDGMENT

work that I thought were very interesting, like, one of the things they worked into it is that Anna had trained him at the FBI.”

Easton also had a ball reteaming with Kelly Monaco (Sam), who had been his leading lady when they played Caleb and Livvie on PORT CHARLES. “I thought it was interesting that they talked about [feeling like they shared a past] connection. I don’t know if they ever defined what that connection was, but I think that happens occasionally; you meet someone and it feels like you’ve met them before, or engaged with them or encountered them before. That was kind of fun.”

McBain’s OLTL-originating disdain for Roger Howarth’s Todd continued on GH, but, admits Easton, “It was always hard hating Todd. Trevor [St. John, ex-Todd/Victor; Tucker, Y&R] is my friend and Roger is my friend and it’s always hard to hate your friend!”

2013-15

Absentee Father: Silas never got to meet two of his three children.

SEAN SMITH/JPI

A lawsuit between ABC and Prospect Park (which had acquired the creative rights to ONE LIFE TO LIVE) mandated that Easton stop playing McBain, and he soon returned as a new character, Silas Clay, brother to his former PC alter Stephen. Easton cops to feeling “a bit of a disconnect” with Silas, whose storyline (and life) came to an abrupt end when he was murdered by ex-mother-in-law Madeline. That GH has subsequently revealed Silas to be the father of not one but two characters (Nelle and Willow) amuses Easton, who says, “Katelyn MacMullen [Willow], who is so lovely and a really terrific actress, came to me one day and said, ‘I think you’re my dad on the show!’ I was like, ‘Uh, *what*?!’ I need a scorecard to keep up with this guy! He’s certainly had a very active life since he’s been dead.”

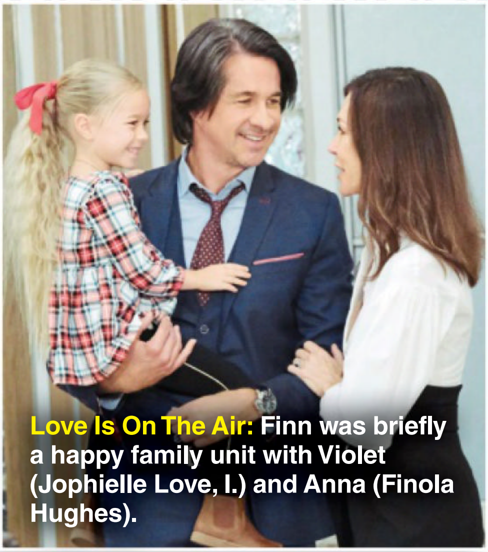
Three’s Company: Finn forged strong bonds with Jane Elliot’s Tracy (c.) and Rebecca Budig’s Hayden.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

2016-17

Easton had been gone from the show for a year when Valentini invited him back to play another new character. “It was one of those things where you walk on the lot knowing you’re not going to buy the car and you end up buying the car,” the actor says. “I was really adamant [about not saying yes] but Frank suggested, ‘Just listen to what the writers have to say.’ ” The show’s then-head writers, Shelly Altman and Jean Passanante, lured him in with their vision for the dapper, idiosyncratic doctor known as Hamilton Finn, whose closest friend was his bearded dragon, Roxy, and who was harboring a secret drug addiction. “It became almost like, ‘I can’t turn this down, it’s gonna be so strange and it’s either going to fail massively or it’s going to be something that would be kind of interesting to watch for a period of time.’ ”

One of the specifics he was given about Finn that particularly appealed to the actor was the character’s unlikely friendship with Jane Elliot’s Tracy. “They told me, ‘His only friend is going to be Tracy.’ They said they had watched me interact in a couple of scenes with Jane; they said, ‘We really like how you pushed each other and think this would be fun. You're going to save her [as Finn] and you're going to become really good friends, and even though you don't seem to care about anything other than yourself and your own issues, she's going to kind of get you.' I thought, 'Well, this is great!' It was just something that you wouldn't expect."



Love Is On The Air: Finn was briefly a happy family unit with Violet (Jophielle Love, l.) and Anna (Finola Hughes).

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Also unexpected? The Finn/Hayden romance. "They told me, 'We don't know who we're going to put you with, we're just going in and we'll see what happens.'" So, Finn and Hayden was a nice surprise. "Don't tell her I said this, but I'm very fond of Rebecca [Budig, ex-Hayden] and she's an amazing actress. She's lovely and kind and I thought the fun of it is that it was two people who were not supposed to be together."

2018-21

Over time, and as Finn moved into a romance with Anna, Easton acknowledges, Finn's quirkiness has been tamped down. "It's gotten away from that [original concept] a little bit," he notes. "Maybe it was distracting or something like that."

The actor relished working opposite Finola Hughes (Anna). "I look back at all the incredible actresses I worked with and I have to be the luckiest guy in the history of daytime," he smiles. "Finola is an icon there, and you're aware of that when you're working with her. We did a lot of playing with the words; she's the kind of actress who will just go with anything you do and I went with whatever she did. It was a fun kind of *Sullivan's Travels*-type of relationship in the beginning, a lot of back-and-forth banter."

Ultimately, he thinks the weight of the Peter August drama was "Fanna's" undoing. "It's hard to have a relationship with somebody if they don't know if their memories are theirs or their sister's and they don't know if they had a kid with the bad guy [Faison] or not," he sums up.

Also in this time frame, Finn and Hayden's daughter, Violet, arrived on the scene in the form of Jophielle Love. "I honestly do feel like her dad," he says. "She just comes onto the set with that smile and it makes you happy."

2022-present

Both Easton and his character are still feeling their way through Finn's situationship with Rebecca Herbst's Elizabeth, but there's nothing ambiguous about the actor's opinion of his co-star. "She's amazing," he declares. "She is so present with you in scenes. She looks at you and you just get lost. I think that's the real thing in this [genre]; you have to believe that there's no one there, it's just the two of you, and the great thing is when you get a partner you can get lost with and nothing else matters, not even the words matter. Rebecca has had some really difficult material and she's incredible in every scene."

Match Point: Easton thinks highly of current leading lady Rebecca Herbst (Elizabeth).

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

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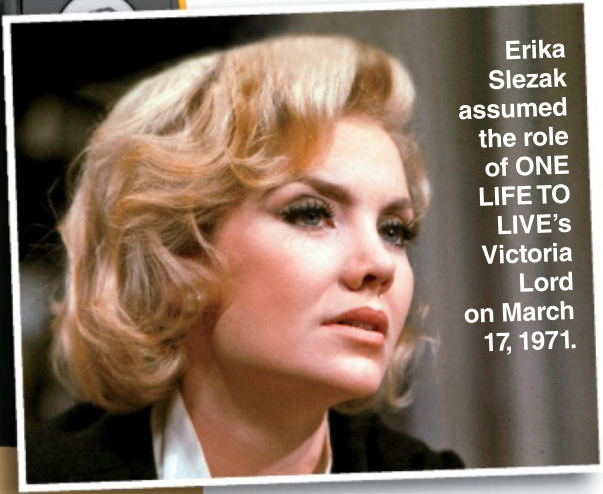
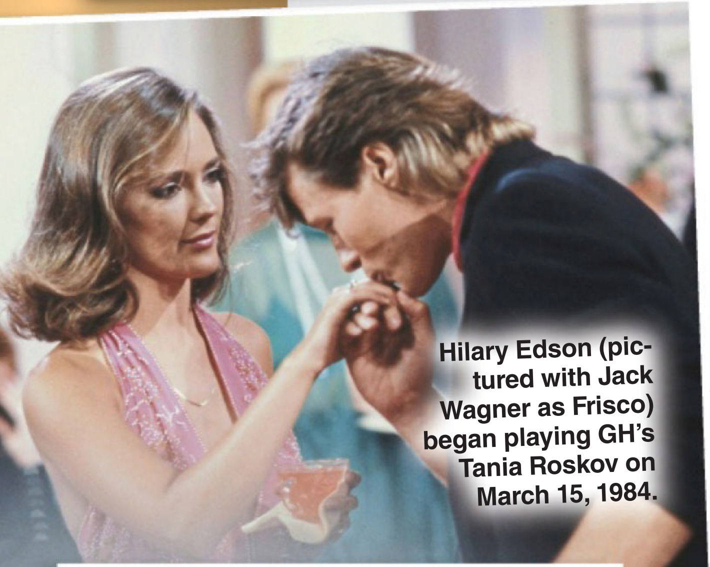
THIS WEEK IN SOAP OPERA HISTORY

Digest **looks back on standout moments from the past.**



Erika Slezak assumed the role of ONE LIFE TO LIVE's Victoria Lord on March 17, 1971.

ABC



Hilary Edson (pictured with Jack Wagner as Frisco) began playing GH's Tania Roskov on March 15, 1984.

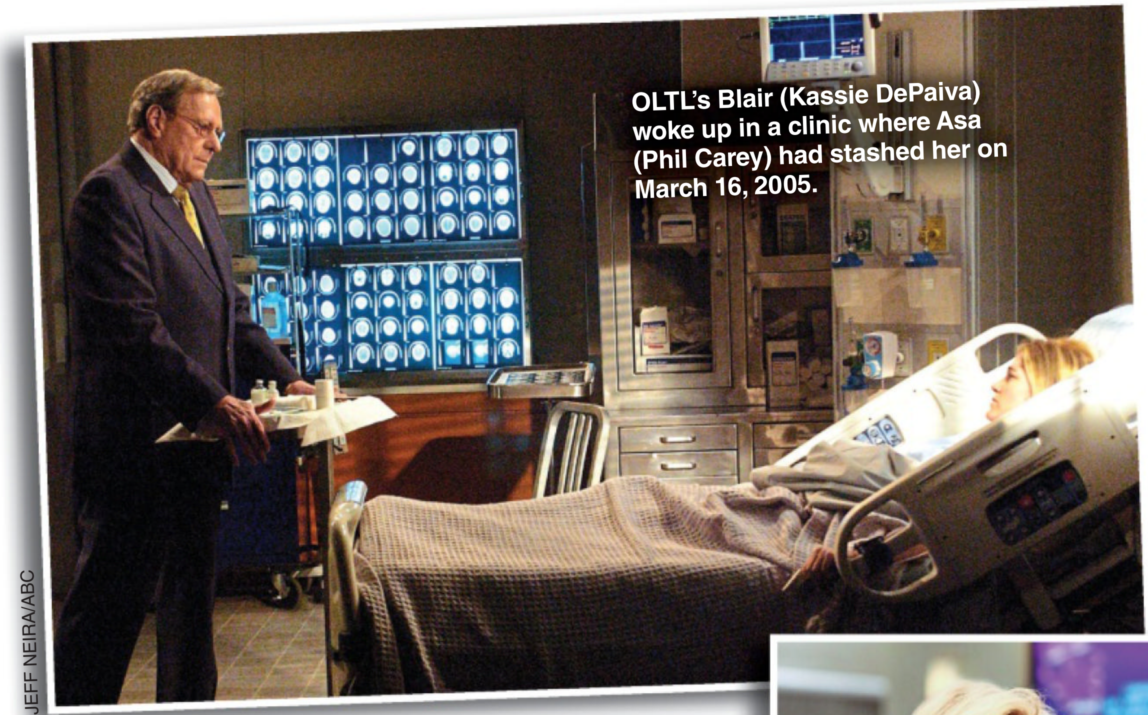
ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES

JERRY FITZGERALD/ABC

On March 19, 1990, Anders Hove made his GH debut as Cesar Faison.

In 1992, AS THE WORLD TURNS's Larry (Ed Fry) proposed to Susan (Marie Masters) on March 15.

COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION



OLTL's Blair (Kassie DePaiva) woke up in a clinic where Asa (Phil Carey) had stashed her on March 16, 2005.

JEFF NEIRA/ABC

On March 17, 2009, DAYS's Lucas (Bryan R. Dattilo) and Chloe (Nadia Bjorlin) married.

PAUL SKIPPER/JPI; MICHAEL ANSELL/ABC

Nina's murderous mother, Madeline, was introduced on March 14, 2014 in the form of Donna Mills on GH.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

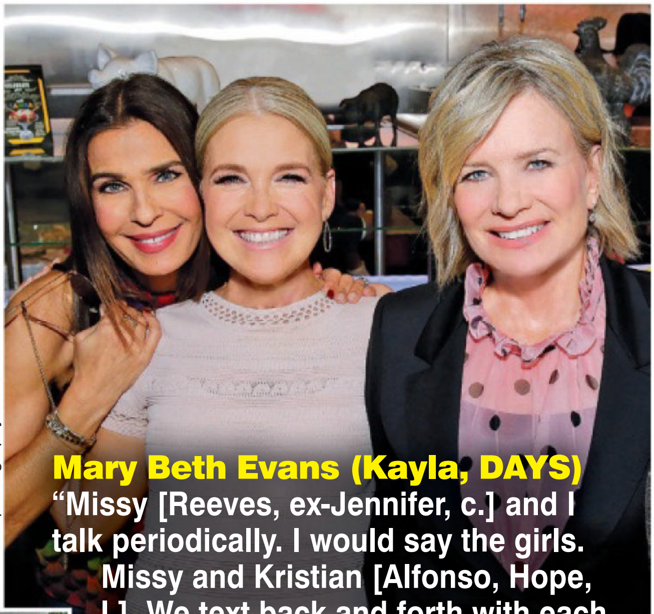
On March 16, 2016, B&B's Quinn (Rena Sofer) shoved Deacon (Sean Kanan) off a cliff.

Q roundup

Which former co-star are

Lauralee Bell (Christine, Y&R)
“Tricia Cast [Nina, r.]. We’ve been best friends for years and she always stays at my house whenever she’s in town.”

elaineleephotography.com; CHRIS HASTON/NBC



Mary Beth Evans (Kayla, DAYS)
“Missy [Reeves, ex-Jennifer, c.] and I talk periodically. I would say the girls. Missy and Kristian [Alfonso, Hope, l.]. We text back and forth with each other.”

Jennifer Gareis (Donna, B&B; ex-Grace, Y&R)
“Oh, gosh! A bunch. Tamara [Clatterbuck, ex-Alice, Y&R, l.], Sharon Case [Sharon, Y&R, r.], Ashley [Jones, Bridget, B&B/ex-Megan, Y&R] and Lauren [Woodland, ex-Brittany, Y&R]. We all love to get together for a girls’ night out.”

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

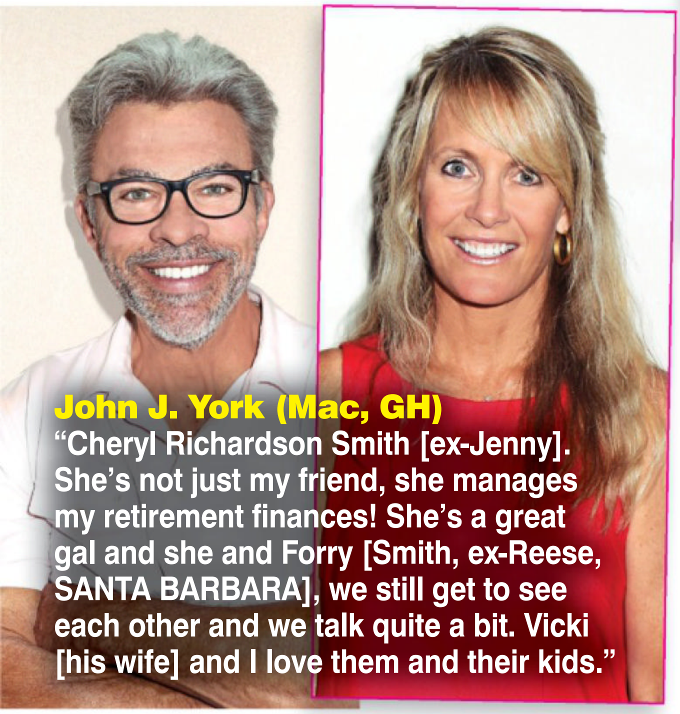
Jason Thompson (Billy, Y&R; ex-Patrick, GH)
“Kimberly [McCullough, ex-Robin, GH] and Dom [Zamprogna, Dante, GH]. Kimberly and I are still very, very close. We still care a lot about each other and we still check up on each other. Dominic, we check in and talk about grabbing a beer and that kind of stuff.”

PHOTOS: STEVEN BERGMAN

you in touch with the most?

XJ JOHNSON/JPI ; NICK ZONNA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Lauren Koslow (Kate, DAYS; ex-Margo, B&B)
"Jim Storm [ex-Bill, Sr.], who played my husband on THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL. In fact, he was at my daughter's wedding in Sicily last fall. I've also reconnected with Dan McVicar [ex-Clarke, B&B, pictured] and, of course, I keep in touch with Kristian Alfonso."



John J. York (Mac, GH)
"Cheryl Richardson Smith [ex-Jenny]. She's not just my friend, she manages my retirement finances! She's a great gal and she and Forry [Smith, ex-Reese, SANTA BARBARA], we still get to see each other and we talk quite a bit. Vicki [his wife] and I love them and their kids."

Scott Clifton (Liam, B&B)
"Kim Matula [ex-Hope] and I are still in touch. It's always fun catching up with her."

JOHN PASCHAL/JPI; JILL JOHNSON/JPI

Tracey E. Bregman (Lauren, Y&R)
"Daniel Hall [ex-Scott, pictured] and Scott Reeves [ex-Ryan et al]."

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

Haley Pullos (Molly, GH)
"Tequan Richmond [ex-TJ]. Always gotta check in on the former hubbies, ya know?"

crossword

BY DONNA HOKE

PRIME REAL ESTATE

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	■	8	9	10
11			■	12			■	13	14			
15			■	16			■	17				
18			19	■	20							
21				22	■	■	■	■	23			■
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	■	■	30			■	31		32	■	■	
33	34	35	■	36						■	■	
■	37		38	■	■	■	■	39		40	41	
42				43		44	45	■	46			
47				■	48		49	■	50			
51				■	52			■	53			
54			■	55								

ACROSS

1. *EPONYMOUS ’90S SHOW NAME STARRING KYLE MACLACHLAN (two words)*
8. Ronald Reagan airport, on luggage tags
11. Dorm overseers, for short
12. B&B role for Betty White
13. Committee head
15. Big picture?; abbr.
16. Do a marathon
17. Transmission repair franchise
18. Baldwin sister (Y&R)
20. *HOME TO DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES*
21. B&B’s Taylor ____
23. End to arbor or ether
24. *EWING FAMILY SHOW*
28. *GOSSIP GIRL SPOT; abbr.*
30. “So ___ me!”
31. B&B role for Katrina Bowden
33. Hindenburg’s vessel type; abbr.
36. *FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS TOWN*
37. Winter menace, for short
39. Brady girl (DAYS)
42. *WHERE PRETTY LITTLE LIARS LIVE*
46. Small batteries; abbr.
47. The O in *SOD*
48. In a pique
50. “Where” in Latin (also the prefix in a major video game company name)
51. *SOCAL LOCALE FOR SERIES FEATURING PETER GALLAGHER (two words)*
52. AS THE WORLD TURNS’s DaCruz (ex-Vienna)
53. “The Lady In ___” (Steve and Kayla’s theme song, DAYS)
54. Alike in meaning; abbr.
55. *WHERE BUFFY SLAYED*

DOWN

1. *ADD A ONE TO GET THE TITLE OF THIS SERIES WITH CHAD MICHAEL MURRAY (two words)*
2. Fish in a John Cleese film
3. R&B’s _____ Brothers
4. Golfer’s goal
5. Sufficient, informally
6. Has a twin sister, Alex (GH)
7. Todd feature (ONE LIFE TO LIVE)
8. Y&R’s Michael (Danny)
9. *NORTHERN EXPOSURE HOME*
10. Get one’s ducks in _ ___ (two words)
14. Possess
19. Quartermaine heir and others (GH)
22. Mideast royal house
25. FANTASY ISLAND prop
26. CIO’s partner

Answers can be found in the next issue.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. You can't change the digits already provided in the grid; you have to work around them.

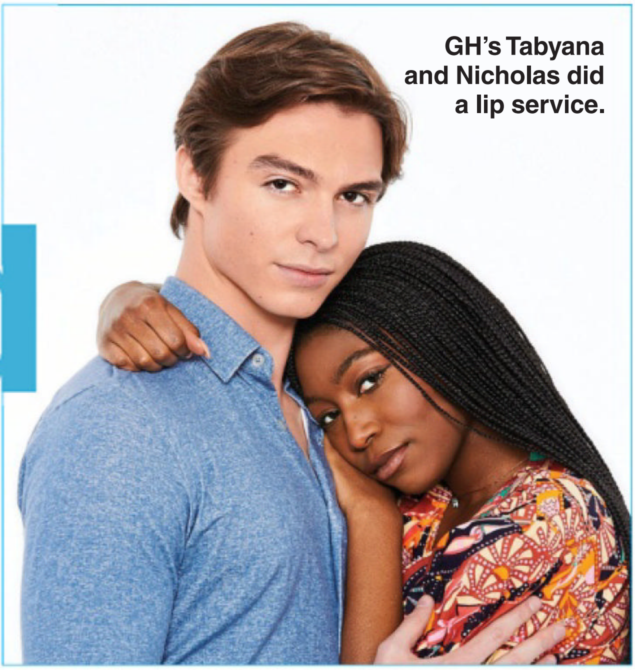
2	8				5	4		
5			4	1				
				2		5	6	7
7			1					
1		8	5		9	7		4
					4			8
6	4	5		9				
				5	7			3
		3	2				8	5

27. Messy dresser
29. *DAWSON'S CREEK WAS THERE*
32. First-rate (two words)
34. Emmy or Oscar, e.g.
35. Words with "on TV" (two words)
38. ___ Beach, FL
40. Luke's ex (GH)
41. Arista or Motown
42. Decomposes
43. "My best soldiers," according to Douglas MacArthur; abbr.
44. Black cat, maybe
45. Monica's late daughter (GH)
49. Calendar square

ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE

M	A	R	A	H	■	■	■	I	P	A	D	S
C	L	A	R	A	■	I	O	S	■	M	R	I
C	A	R	E	Y	■	F	R	A	N	C	I	S
O	N	E	■	E	M	I	L	Y	■	■	■	K
O	■	■	B	S	A	■	■	A	S	L	■	E
K	A	N	E	■	U	P	C	■	H	A	L	L
■	■	C	H	A	R	L	E	S	O	N	■	■
G	A	I	A	■	A	Y	S	■	A	G	E	R
R	■	S	R	S	■	■	A	Z	T	■	■	O
U	■	■	■	A	N	D	R	E	■	R	A	G
B	R	A	E	D	E	N	■	M	A	U	L	E
B	O	B	■	A	D	A	■	A	S	H	E	R
S	C	O	T	T	■	■	■	N	A	R	C	S

Scene & Heard


GH's Tabyana and Nicholas did a lip service.

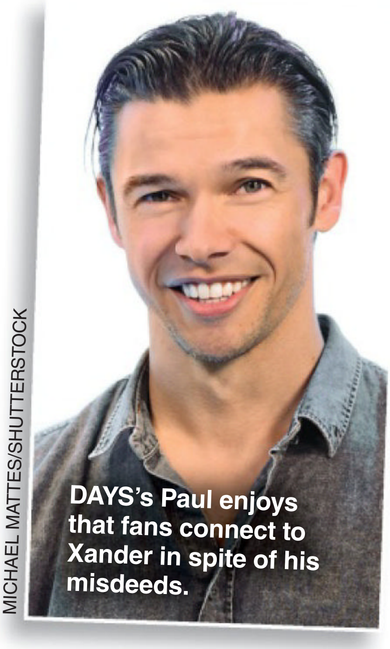
RICKY MIDDLESWORTH/ABC

IT'S IN HIS KISS

GH's **Tabyana Ali** (Trina) and **Nicholas Chavez** (Spencer) both felt the gravity of the moment when a milestone first kiss was scripted for their characters. "We actually took a lot of time, me and him," Ali reports. "We got together and we broke that script down and ran it a thousand times. We tried to learn the ins and outs of it and put all the pieces together. We took this very, very seriously! I mean, obviously we always take our work very seriously, but we were like, 'This is on another level!' We wanted it to be just right. We wanted it to be spectacular! And I think it turned out just how we wanted it, very sweet and very innocent, in a sense. I'm glad that we did the work beforehand and we didn't just show up on the day. We didn't want to do that. We didn't want to just be like, 'Okay, Vaseline, mouthwash, let's go!' "

BAD COMPANY?

Despite his evildoings as DAYS's Xander, **Paul Telfer** garners a lot of sympathy for his character from fans, especially those of the female variety. "Obviously, I try to play Xander as vulnerable and sensitive and not a complete monster," says the actor. "And I'm always looking for ways to give him little gestures and ways of glancing at people that communicate that he is actually quite sweet and does want good things for people, but he's just so in his own way. It always feels like a compliment when people like it, but at the same time I'm like, 'Oh, my goodness. I really worry about what their husbands and brothers are like. I hope they're not like Xander.' " Telfer admits he's received some memorable comments on social media, along with some interesting odes to Xander over the years. "I won't go into too much grisly detail, but I get sent pictures and I guess you could call it long poetry that features a mélange of me and Xander," recounts Telfer with a laugh. "There's a blurring of reality and fantasy there. I try and just take it in the spirit it's intended."


DAYS's Paul enjoys that fans connect to Xander in spite of his misdeeds.

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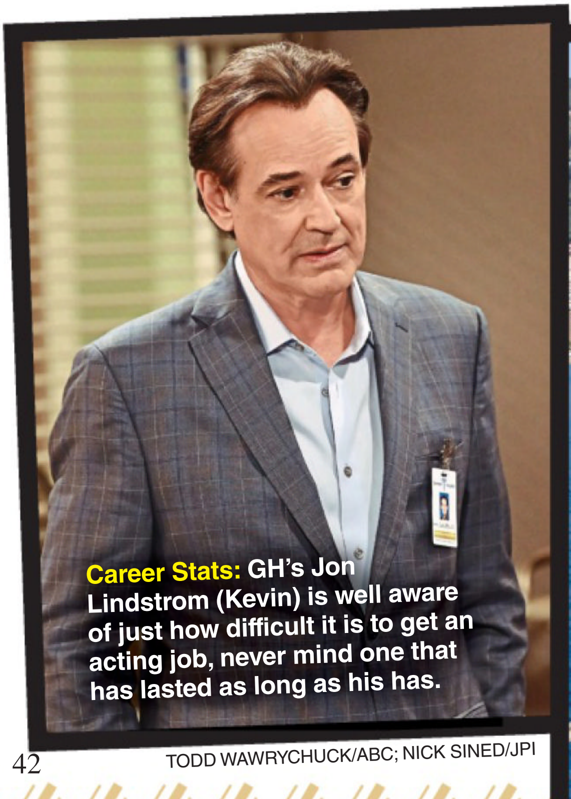
GAINFULLY EMPLOYED

How doing a soap has changed actors' lives.

Being cast on GH as Ryan back in 1992 had an immediate impact on Jon Lindstrom — specifically, in his wallet. "I wasn't just unemployed when I got that job," he recalls. "I was *really* unemployed, and had been for a couple of years. And that's a long time for the phone not to ring. I had credit card debt and, I think, less than $100 in the bank."

Surviving, not thriving, was the name of the game for the actor at the time — but ultimately, he did both. Ryan's introductory story was such a hit that he was given a long-term contract, a second role (that of Kevin) and even "a little raise to justify it". After Ryan "died" in 1995, he remained with the show as Kevin, which begat a six-year run on PORT CHARLES, and he's been back on GH in a recurring capacity since 2013. So, Lindstrom notes, doing soaps has also led to career longevity as an actor — not just in soaps but in prime-time and film, as well. "I recently wrote a book, and in the book, [a character] relays how he had once looked up the statistics for Hollywood careers, and that 'most Hollywood careers don't last more than a decade and more than 70 percent of all movies made include an actor who can claim exactly one film credit.' So, in other words, if you thought it was bad, it's even worse! It's nearly impossible to achieve,



Career Stats: GH's Jon Lindstrom (Kevin) is well aware of just how difficult it is to get an acting job, never mind one that has lasted as long as his has.

Plane Truth: Traveling to exotic locales like Monte Carlo is just one of the many perks Don Diamont (Bill, B&B) has experienced as part of his soap job.

TODD WAWRYCHUCK/ABC; NICK SINED/JPI

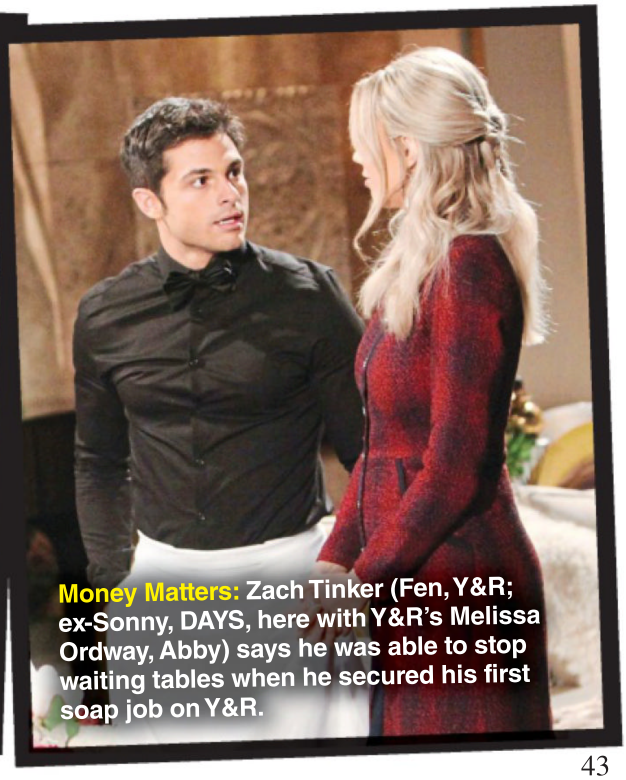
let alone maintain, any kind of a career in show business. And thanks to GENERAL HOSPITAL, mine has gone on three times longer than your average career, and my association with it has allowed me to do a lot of other really great things. In this business, being known is at least half the battle, and because of GENERAL HOSPITAL, I'm known."

B&B's Don Diamont (Bill), who began his daytime career as DAYS's Carlo in 1984, before moving to Y&R as Brad in 1985, and then to B&B in 2009, says being on a soap has changed his life "in every way. Of course, it's how I made my living, so financially, but also creatively, there is no question about that. You are put in some pretty unusual circumstances in soaps so you are challenged as an actor. You may remember Brad in a cage back in the day. It has been so satisfying, learning to grow as an actor. The professional and personal relationships I have made, and the friendships we've had, so many great location shoots, and going to Monte Carlo for the Television Festival, the legendary athletes I've met who were fans of the show? It has affected my life in every way."

Diamont's co-star, Jacqueline MacInnes Wood (Steffy), echoes the sentiment. "It's changed my life for the better," she enthuses. "I get to work on a show with a fabulous cast and crew. The schedule has always been wonderful, but especially now that I have little children, being home with them is a top priority of mine. Before the show, I had so many odd jobs just trying to make ends meet. I am grateful for that time because it gave me a strong work ethic and mindset. But working on BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL has upgraded my life in so many ways. It is something that I will never take for granted. I'm humbled by the blessings every day."

Zach Tinker, who just wrapped his run as DAYS's Sonny, also appreciates the financial and creative implications of the gig. "I can pay my rent," he muses. "That makes it a lot less stressful. I remember when I was on Y&R [as Fen], I had someone tweet at me, 'Big actors like Zach Tinker would never know what it's like, blah, blah, blah financially.' I looked up from my phone. I was living in a two-by-two studio apartment on Hollywood Boulevard at the time. I was like, 'If they only

Mother's Say: B&B's Jacqueline MacInnes Wood appreciates that she has a work/life balance playing Steffy.



Money Matters: Zach Tinker (Fen, Y&R; ex-Sonny, DAYS, here with Y&R's Melissa Ordway, Abby) says he was able to stop waiting tables when he secured his first soap job on Y&R.

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

knew....' As an actor, making money is very difficult because a, most of the time you don't have a job. And b, you give away 50 percent of your money. You've got to give 30 percent to taxes, 10 percent to your agent and 10 percent to your manager. So having a steady job is huge. It changes your life and makes it a lot less stressful. But it allowed me to be a working actor. It's what allowed me to stop waiting tables. It's kind of what began my career. I owe a lot to soaps. I genuinely don't know where my career would be without them. They've been an integral part of my life and my career."

For Y&R's Beth Maitland (Traci), playing a character for such a long stretch has had both reel- and real-life significance. "My soap job has changed my life in every single important way," she reflects. "I have been playing Traci for over 40 years, and I can say that not only have I grown up with her, she has helped me mature, helped me understand important life experiences, even before they happened by playing them on TV first. We have grown into the same person, pretty much. And then there are the obvious and practical ways. It has affected how I was able to raise my daughter and how I am able to live in a comfortable and safe environment. I could not be more grateful for what was supposed to be just a summer job. It is playing Traci that makes me feel the most myself."

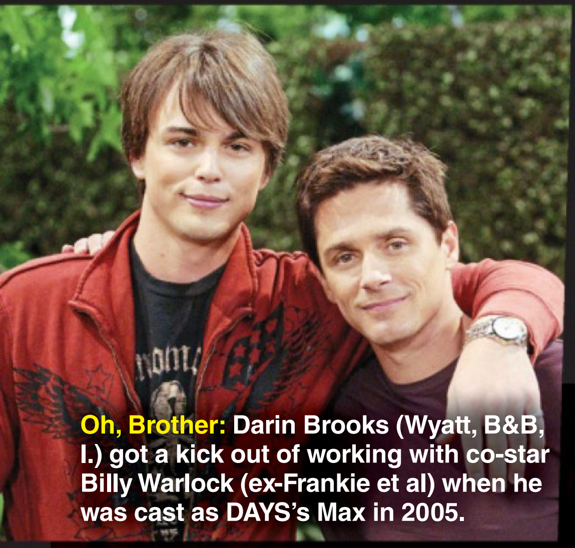
One of soapdom's rising stars, Tabyana Ali (Trina), who marks her first GH anniversary this month, says she has evolved significantly as an actor from the consistent opportunity to hone her skills that working in daytime provides. "My thought process on work has changed," she begins. "I feel like I pay a lot more attention to details now when it comes to the character, specific words, the camera work; I feel like I'm picking up things from being on the set and working on a show consistently that you might not understand just from going to [acting] class. I can see that within my work when I look at my first episode [compared] to my latest episode."

The GH job has also made it possible for her to focus on her acting and her character, as opposed to auditioning and wondering what the next role will be. "Not a lot of actors have that opportunity," she notes. "So much of being an actor is sitting and waiting for the next audition and the next part, so that's a big shift." All in all, since GH hired her, she exclaims, "Everything has changed for me! Even my height has changed — I thought I was done growing

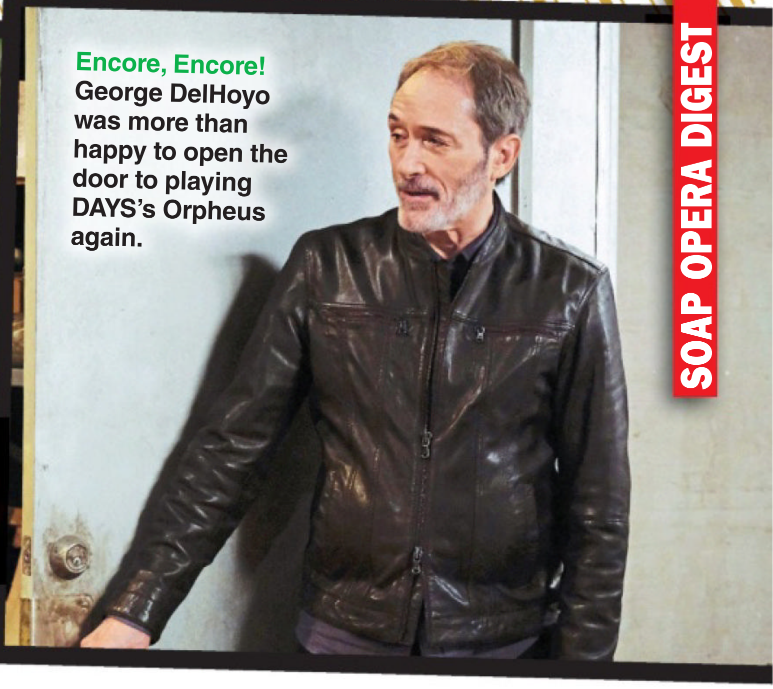
She Is Me: Beth Maitland says playing Y&R's Traci has enriched her life in ways she couldn't have imagined.

In Full Bloom: Everything has been coming up roses for Tabyana Ali (Trina) since she joined GH.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC



Oh, Brother: Darin Brooks (Wyatt, B&B, l.) got a kick out of working with co-star Billy Warlock (ex-Frankie et al) when he was cast as DAYS's Max in 2005.



Encore, Encore! George DelHoyo was more than happy to open the door to playing DAYS's Orpheus again.

PAUL SKIPPER/JPI; XJ JOHNSON/JPI

and I grew an inch!"

Darin Brooks (Wyatt, B&B) can't overstate how starting on DAYS as Max in 2005, and now working on B&B since 2013, has influenced his life. "Honestly, they were my first families in the entertainment world. DAYS was my first family of actors and colleagues. When I first booked Max, I looked up to Billy Warlock [ex-Frankie]. I'd seen him on BAYWATCH when I was a kid and was like, 'You're Billy Warlock!' But it was such a blast.... And I know people say soaps are the best training ground for actors, but they really are. I went to acting classes at night and then the next day, I got to practice what I learned the day before. You get to try things and make choices and learn all the technical aspects of where to stand and learn how to work with lighting; these have all been invaluable tools."

George DelHoyo (Orpheus), who appeared on DAYS from 1986-87, then returned in 2016 and has been recurring since, is thrilled to have the opportunity to be back where his soap career began. "They called and I thought, 'You know what? I think it's time to revisit and reintroduce into my life the things I started off doing, the things that I love to do, which is storytelling,' " he shares. "Returning to this thing that I started off doing has been a joy and a great gift at this point in my life. And to realize that I think I've actually come back to it improved because of life experience and maturation and family, has made my life richer and more fun. To add to that, the relationships and the friendships and to rekindle those things that are now even stronger than they were then. I've developed friendships on a level that I didn't then. I was young. We were all young. Now, with life and maturation, it's wonderful to have these things that you value more."

Ultimately, Wood notes that the job is especially attractive to her at this stage of her life. "Being cast as Steffy Forrester opened up a whole new world to me and allowed me to be a mother," she explains. "Being able to spend time with my babies and be present with them, it's been a blessing being able to balance mom/work life with BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL. I wouldn't want to be on any other show. As I said earlier, the schedule is wonderful. I'm challenging myself through many emotional storylines and pages and pages of dialogue. I've learned not to be too hard on myself and celebrate little victories. That has allowed me to feel like a superhero." ☐

classic lines

Forget BOB ♥ ABISHOLA! Some Of TV's Funniest Lines Are On Soaps.

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

(Deacon is shocked to see Brooke and Taylor enjoying a civil lunch together.)

Deacon: "The rumors are true. The Cold War's actually over."

(The ladies explain their newfound friendship.)

Deacon: "Are you sure there's not one last little catfight left because personally, I've never seen one and the thought of you two together, just, Daddy like."

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Leo: "Hello, Boss Man."

Xander: "Come again?"

Leo: "Oh, do you prefer Citizen Cook? I need to know what to call you in front of the copy boys and muckrakers when I show up at *The Spectator* to drop off my gossip column."

GENERAL HOSPITAL

(Esme faints after seeing Heather attack Austin.)

Heather: "Why did she faint? Is it the baby? Blood pressure?"

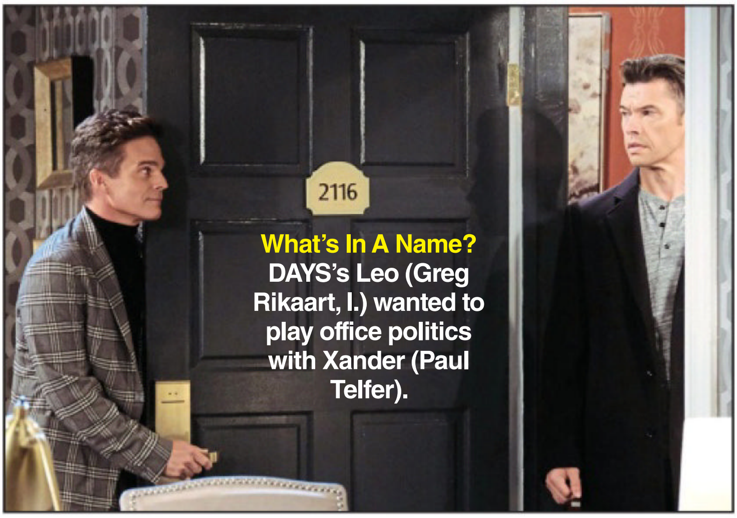
Ryan: "I imagine it was her witnessing your dexterity with a hook."

(Spencer tries to comfort Trina after Portia's betrayal.)

Spencer: "She's no Nikolas Cassadine."

Trina: "That's a low bar to clear."

Spencer: "But she cleared it!"



What's In A Name? DAYS's Leo (Greg Rikaart, l.) wanted to play office politics with Xander (Paul Telfer).

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

(At Crimson Lights, Adam and Tucker sit down with coffee and brownies.)

Adam: "Ah, well, look at us. Genoa City's villains get their just 'dessert'."

(Later, the gents call it a night.)

Tucker: "This has been a blast, but this is as much excitement as I can handle in one night."

Adam: "Yeah, I know what you mean. So let's never do it again."

Tucker: "It's a date."

(Billy, Johnny and Connor show up at Crimson Lights after a day of ice-skating and meet up with Chelsea.)

Billy: "Hey, Connor, it's your fan club."

Connor: "Where?"

Chelsea: "No, he means us, silly. How was skating?"

Connor: "Totally great."

Johnny: "Except for all the times Dad fell on his butt."

Billy: "All right, I was a little rusty."

Connor: "I thought you were Billy."

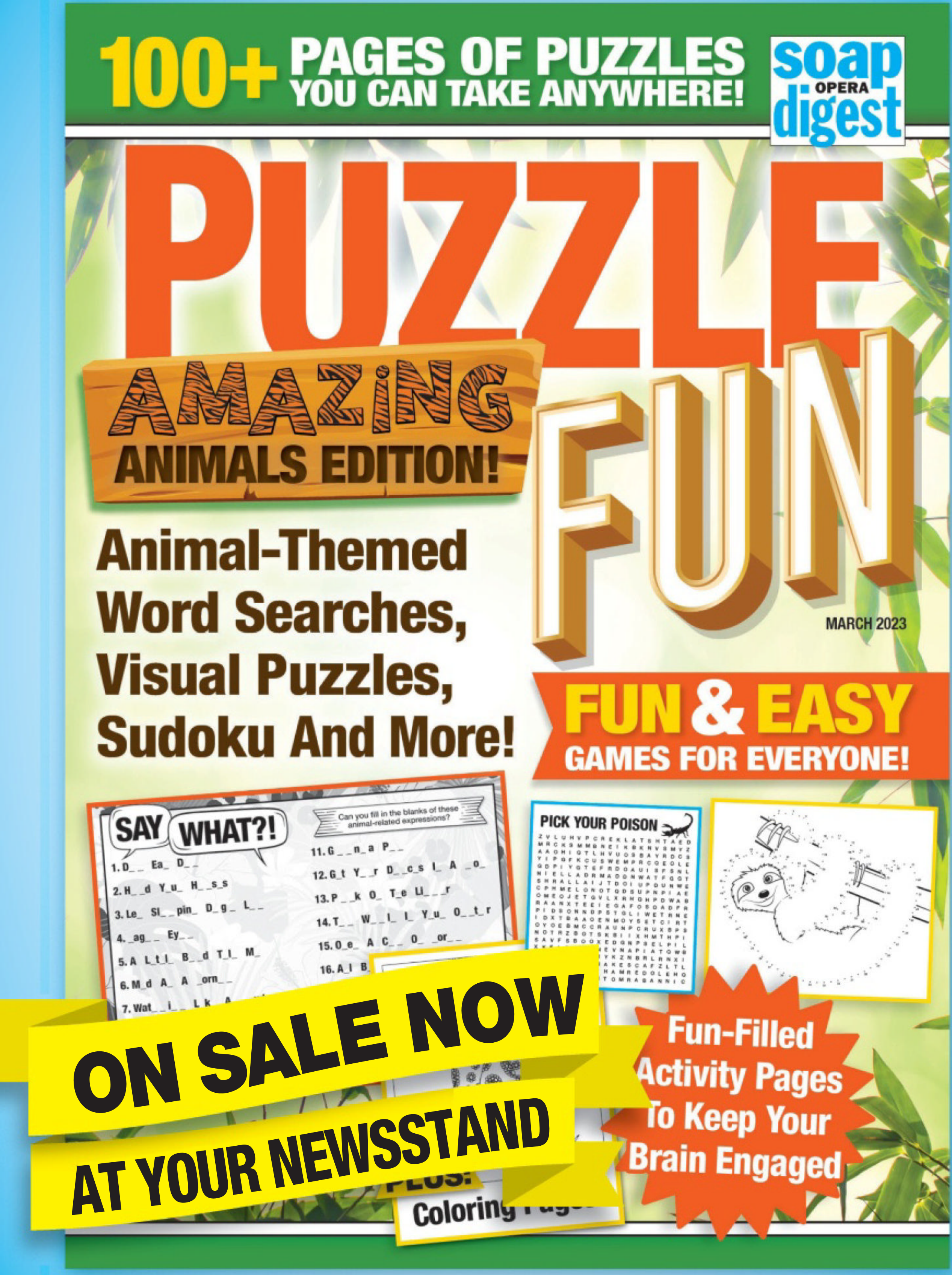
Johnny: "Good one."

(Adam and Connor make a stop at Crimson Lights before school.)

Adam: "How did you write such a compelling book report?"

Connor: "Easy. I read the book."

Adam: "Geez, now why didn't I think of that?"



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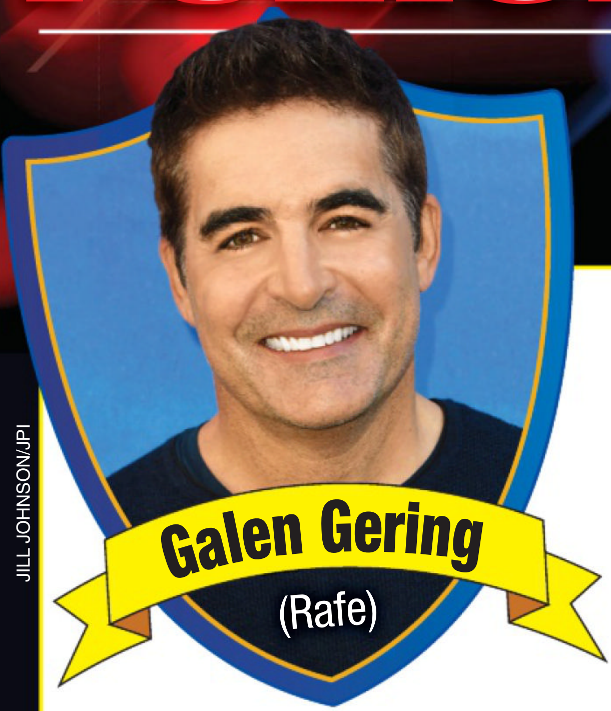


JILL JOHNSON/JPI

You started out as an FBI agent, who transitioned to cop. Were you excited about playing a lawman? "The exciting thing about that, especially if you're with the FBI, working undercover, and going up against some espionage, is that it's got a James Bond kind of vibe. It's very sexy, appealing and otherworldly. And maybe you've got some significant instruments and guns [to use]. So, sure, that's exciting. At times, DAYS embraces that with different technology. Obviously, I quickly transitioned from the FBI to being part of the Salem police force. That's great, too, because you're in the middle of all the action. That's one of the great things about being a cop."

As a police detective, there's no uniform involved. What are your thoughts on that? "Well, it's, 'Is it always a button-down [shirt] and a blazer? Can it just be a pullover?' Sometimes I'm like, 'Oh, that's too casual.' Or, 'That's too dressy.' It depends on the storyline that you have. It's definitely nice not to be in a polyester cop outfit and to have that flexibility."

You wear a badge. Is your name on it? "It is. It's an official Hernandez commissioner badge. It's pretty legit, actually. It's always funny when there's a scene where somebody says, 'What do you do?' Then I'll deftly whip my blazer back to reveal my badge."

Did you do any research to play a cop believably? "I did, originally. One of my best friends was actually a detective in Long Beach. I would do ride-alongs with him. When I was on PASSIONS [as Luis], I was playing a cop, too. We had a bunch of specialists that would come in and teach us how to enter a room, how to hold a firearm, or how to cover another cop. There was definitely a bit I had to learn."

Is it ever frustrating that soap cops rarely solve crimes? "It used to be something that bothered me more a long time ago. I'd think, 'Oh, my God. We're so inept. We can't bring these people to justice.' Then I had a simple realization. In theory, most of the people committing them, probably 99 out of 100 on the show, should be locked up or would be locked up in the real world. But we wouldn't be able to have a show in that case. Once I had that realization, I was like, so much of it is about the chase and the drama of, 'If I do catch this person, can I put them away?' Often times there's going to be a loophole; there's frustration and drama in that. I think that maybe he could catch a few more people, but it seems like the department has been a little better of late. They've pursued some crimes, and they've caught some people. I'm happy about that."

Have you had any mishaps with prop guns or handcuffs? "We don't do as much firing of guns as we used to or handling of guns. The

Four actors discuss the fine art of playing a soap cop.

handcuffs that we use are real. They file the teeth all down on them, so when you [close them] they won't hold. What ends up happening is you turn the perp around, put the handcuffs on him, and they completely undo. You have to keep going, because you don't want to stop the scene. In most of the scenes, after I've handcuffed someone, they come undone, so I'm holding them by the wrists and trying to pretend they're on and really tight."

Do you have the Miranda rights memorized? "Oh yeah. 'You have the right to remain silent. You have the right to an attorney ...' I've known them for a long time. I never have to worry about them."

What criminal do you think Rafe most wanted to bring to justice? "Probably Clyde. Rafe had this emotional connection to Jordan. Knowing that Clyde was an awful person on top of all the crimes he committed and that he abused Jordan was troubling to Rafe for sure."

What has been Rafe's proudest moment as a cop? "Getting Gabi out of jail or working to get her out of jail, because she's his sister. She's his family."

What has been Rafe's most embarrassing/disappointing moment as a cop? "Billy Flynn [Chad] and I will talk about this one. It was when we were trying to save Abigail. Ben had her at a cabin, and there was a giant snowstorm. Rafe was like, 'You can't get through.' But Chad said, 'I'm going to just go myself.' He stormed out, got there and was able to save the day. That was very disappointing to me. When you work on a case for a long time, you want to see it through."

Have you ever heard from real-life officers about your portrayal? "When Rafe was with the FBI, there was a woman in Florida whose husband used to watch with her and he was in the FBI. That was pretty cool. They would say, 'Your attitude and banter so reminds me of these guys.' They said it was very lifelike."

What do you like about working on the Salem PD set? "I like that it's pretty big, and there are a couple of desks in it. You can perch on them. It's got a coffeemaker, so there's coffee there. The prop guys do a good job with that. There are files around, so you can make it look like you're doing some sort of work. It's a pretty cool set. I like it better than my office, which is so small. The desk takes up such a huge part of it."

Is there anything cool on your desk or interesting in the drawers? "I've got my commissioner plate on it, which is pretty cool, and various stationery. There are old [floppy discs] and relics like old calculators that you would just never see anymore. That's pretty funny. It's a pretty antiquated setup. Our drawers are usually full of things like N95 masks, water bottles and old scripts. Those are the things that you're most likely to find."

Cuff Links: Gering has to hold tight when Rafe collars criminals like Orpheus (George DelHoyo).

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Elia Cantu
(Jada)

PHOTOS: XJ JOHNSON/JPI

What were your initial thoughts on playing a cop? "It was very appealing, because I'd always wanted to play a cop or some kind of role where I could do action or stunts; kind of have a badass edge. When I found out Jada was a detective, I was like, 'Wow. This is really awesome to be a woman playing this authoritative position, both as a woman and a person of color.' "

Was it the kind of role that was completely foreign to you or did you already have an edge in real life, where you could be tough when necessary? "I definitely have a tough girl in me. That's just innate. Plus, I come from a background in sports. That also helps to keep me tough. It was foreign in other ways. I've never been a police officer. So it was foreign to get certain verbiage down, like the Miranda rights and things like that, and handling handcuffs."

Did you have to memorize the Miranda rights? "I did have to memorize them, absolutely. That wasn't too tough. Because of the arrests she's been making lately, I've been having to say them full out."

Did you do any research so you could better embody a cop? "My research was looking online. I did a lot of YouTube research on holding a gun and the proper stance when you're holding a gun — how to hold a rescue position versus when you're actually ready to shoot it. I also looked at a lot of TV shows, women I admired who played positions like this. Regina King played a cop, Jennifer Lopez ... There's also a new show on Fox, ALERT: MISSING PERSONS UNIT. Dania Ramirez is fantastic. I watched other detectives, studied ladies who were in similar roles. I reached out to a family member who had experience being a sheriff and a cop. I kind of picked his brain a little bit."

As a detective, you don't wear a uniform. What are your thoughts on that? "I like that I'm in regular clothes. It gives me and Richard [Bloore, costume designer] some wiggle room to switch up her style a little bit, have a little fun with it. She's tough, but she's still feminine. An inspiration is Katharine Hepburn with the clothes that she wore, the high-waisted slacks and the button-up [blouses]. It's very sophisticated and classy. There's sexiness in there, but it's still professional."

What's been your proudest on-the-job moment? "Solving Abigail's murder. That was a really big thing. Jada caught that the time stamp was off at the pub, that somebody changed it. That's what led to solving that murder."

Have you had any embarrassing moments or flubs? "I was talking to Brandon Beemer [Shawn] about the handcuffs, how you have to be able to whip them out, be ready to go, and close them up. They don't really lock. There was a scene when I was arresting

Kristen and I couldn’t get the cuffs around her wrists and time it right. That was sort of a flub. It’s funny, Jada always has cuffs on her. She arrested Kristen at [Gabi and Li’s] wedding. Some fans were like, ‘Where did she have those?’ I was wearing this elegant dress and all of a sudden I had these cuffs ready to go. Jada stays ready.”

What criminal do you think Jada most wanted to bring to justice? “I would say Li and Kristen. What they did was for selfish reasons and it affected so many people. Because of what Kristen did, Marlena died. Kayla died. Kate died. Kate was Jada’s confidante during her abortion time. All these women also meant so much to Steve, who was Jada’s father’s best friend.”

What do you like about working on the Salem PD set? “There’s always coffee. It’s real coffee, although it is decaf. There’s just something so warm and comforting and familiar about the smell of coffee. I love coffee, so just smelling it when you’re on set and having it there makes you think, ‘Okay, you’re at the station. You’re ready to go. You’re drinking coffee. You’re solving crimes.’ ”

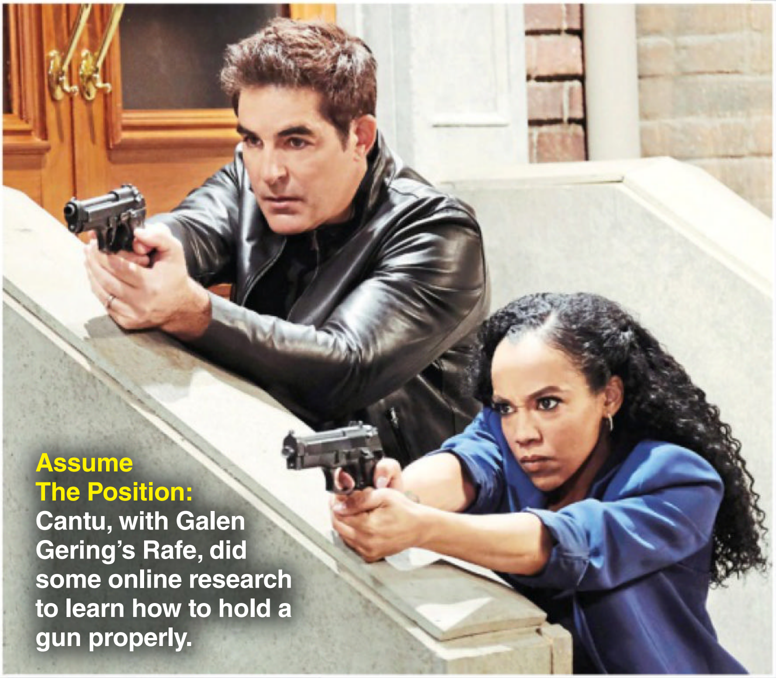
Is there anything cool on your desk or in its drawers? “There are some masks in the drawers. Because of Covid, we still have to wear masks on set. There are some scripts there, too, and pens and Jada’s off-duty cuffs, if you know what I mean [*laughs*]. On the desk there are a lot of files, because Rafe gives Jada a lot of work. My penholder and name placard are always constant, too. I love my name placard.”

Does seeing that put you in instant detective mode? “You know what really puts me in the groove? As soon as I step foot on the set of the police station and smell the coffee, the prop master brings me my prop gun and my badge. It’s the badge and my gun. That makes it official. As soon as I put them on, I’m like, ‘Oh, yeah. I mean business.’ ”

What makes Jada cut out for police work? “It’s her natural ability to protect. She’s a protector and she’s very passionate. And she’s honest to a fault. She never lies.”

What’s the best case you’ve worked on so far? “The orchid case, probably because of the women involved in it and all of them passing away. Jada takes it all very seriously. Although a lot of these people are like, ‘Here we go. Orpheus, again,’ it’s all new to Jada. She takes everything seriously.”

Cops don’t always solve a lot of crimes on soaps. It tends to be the civilians a lot. Does that get joked about on set? “Like Chad DiMera, he kind of helped solve his wife’s murder. I did joke about that when I first started. We were questioning Leo Stark in the interrogation room, and Chad just busted in. I said, ‘Do people just bust in here? They shouldn’t be able to as civilians.’ We joked about that with Billy Flynn [Chad]. He was like, ‘Oh, yeah. You’ll see more of this.’ And I have. I’m like, ‘What are the cops doing in the lobby?’ Drinking coffee, I guess.”



Assume The Position: Cantu, with Galen Gering’s Rafe, did some online research to learn how to hold a gun properly.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Dominic Zamprogna

(Dante)

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

The whole time you've been on the show, you've played a cop, which can be a blessing and a curse on daytime. "Yeah [*pause*] — what's the blessing part?"

Steady employment? "Yeah, totally — Dante will always have a job as a cop and as long as I don't complain about being a cop on the show, I'll have a job, too. That is a super-big challenge. I do get frustrated, because I don't watch a lot of TV, but every once in a while, I'll put on NCIS or something just to see the cops actually winning, you know? And I'm like, 'Oh, cops do win things!' Because we never do on the show; we just don't. And I don't know why, really. I know it's a soap, but to me, it doesn't matter — daytime, prime-time, we're all making TV and trying to make it good. Would I like to actually see him solve a case? Yeah! But I'm not losing any sleep over it."

Over the years, I imagine the PCPD set has become a bit of a home away from home for you. Do you keep anything in your desk drawers? "No, because they empty it out all the time. If you were to leave something in there, it would probably end up disappearing into the bowels of Prospect Studios. But you're right, there is a comfortability that I feel with it, for sure. The other day, Frank [Valentini, executive producer] was directing and he was like, 'I want you to come down here to your desk and open your drawer and take the gun out.' And I was like, 'That's not my desk.' And he was like, 'Oh, well, go to your desk and take the gun out of the drawer.' I was not going to say anything; I was thinking, 'Maybe he just wants the shot this way.' But then I was like, 'No, I'm going to tell him because it feels weird to me to go into this drawer. It doesn't feel like my desk!' It definitely is a home away from home for my character and a comfortable place to do scenes."

Dante has had a couple of partners over the course of his PCPD career. People really dug the Dante/Nathan partnership, which became a tight friendship outside of work, as well. Why do you think fans responded so well to it? "Because Ryan [Paevey, ex-Ryan] is so dreamy! You know, as it's happening in real time, you don't really know what people like or why they like it. But I know when we're doing good work, and I think we just complemented each other. Michael Easton [Finn], when he first came onto the show as McBain, he and I really loved the brief time we were playing cops together. We thought that could have been a really cool thing and we still talk all the time about how fun it was. I think people would have really dug that partnership. But with the Nathan thing, you know, he was with Maxie, and Dante was with Lulu, and we were all best friends. We were this little unit. And there was a lot of cop stuff being written at that time. There were a lot of bad guys running around. I still don't think we solved anything, but we looked good not solving stuff!"

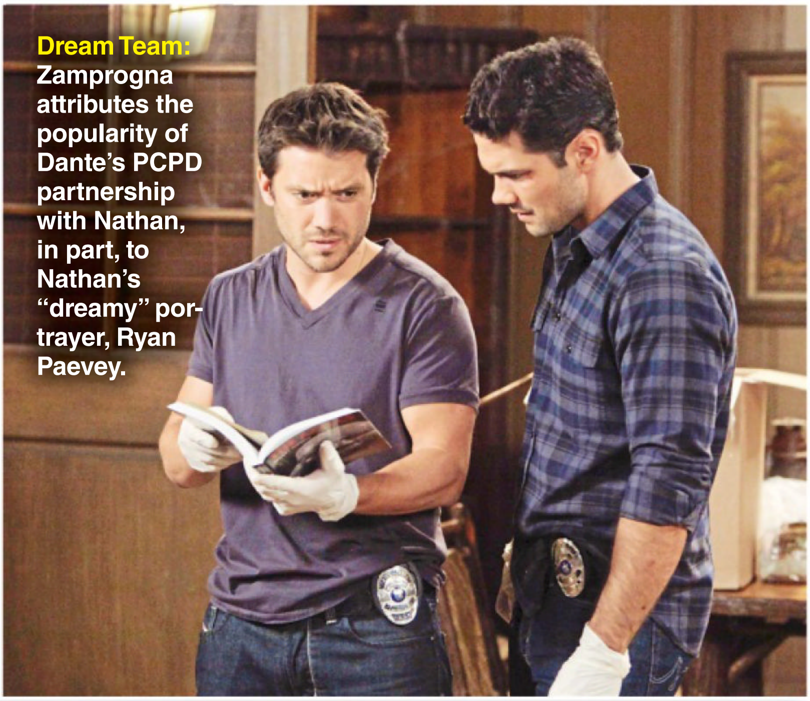
Equally dreamy, arguably, was who Dante was teamed with after Nathan's death, Chase. Do you miss having Josh Swickard (Chase) as a partner? "Oh, yeah, I love Josh. He's a really great guy and I get along with him really well. It's cool because lately we've been doing more scenes together because Chase wants to be a cop again and I'm his sounding board for that. I really do enjoy our dynamic, as well. He came onto the show right before I left [in 2018] — I left maybe five months later, so our joke was, like, 'I'm out of here because this guy sucks!' Which, obviously, is not the case. I don't know what they're going to do, but I would welcome Chase coming back to the PCPD because we need good detectives — or at least people who make the audience believe we might actually solve a crime."

Did you ever have a beef with Steve Burton when he was playing Jason because he always got to be the one to kill this evildoer or that evildoer? "Nah, are you kidding me? That guy was there for, like, 25 years! I would never have thought I would ever be the chosen one to shoot the bad guy over the show's leading 'shooting the bad guy' star. I never had any illusions of grandeur."

Can you recite the Miranda rights from memory? "Yeah. Do you want me to?"

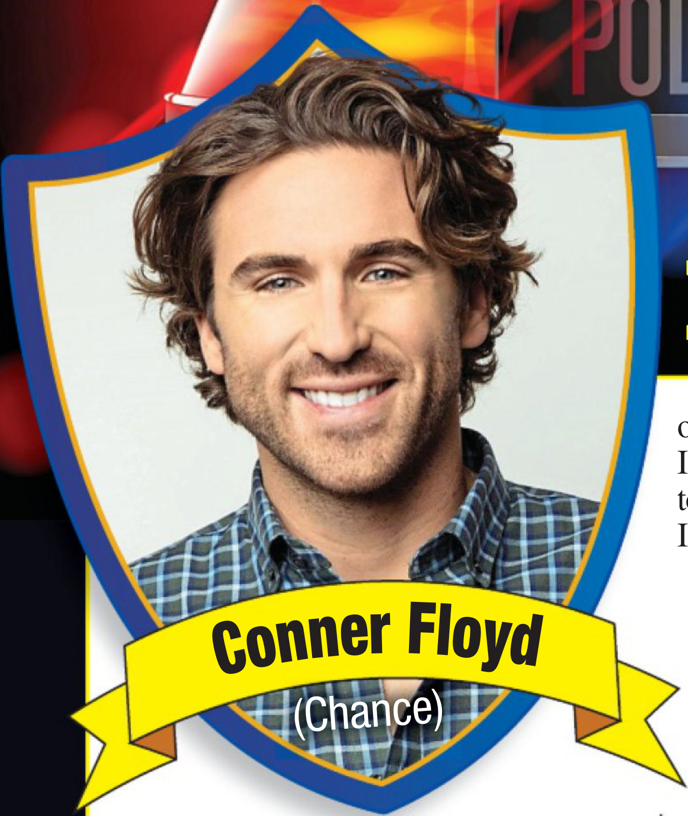
No, I believe you. Was there a learning curve for you when it came to looking like you knew what you were doing with guns and handcuffs? "I still don't know what I'm doing with handcuffs! I *hate* working with handcuffs. I find them so annoying. If I know the camera isn't going to see the cuffs, we just fake it because I can't stand them. I played a cop a bunch of times before GH, so I didn't feel like it was out of my comfort zone at all to do. I'm not a huge gun guy in real life, but I do know how to look like I know what I'm doing with one."

How do you think you would fare as a cop in real life? "I don't think I would be a great cop. I think I would take things too personally and probably freak out. I don't think I'm calm enough to be a cop, you know? It seems like a job for a much lower-heart-rate type of person than I am."


Dream Team: Zamprogna attributes the popularity of Dante's PCPD partnership with Nathan, in part, to Nathan's "dreamy" portrayer, Ryan Paevey.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

YOUNG & RESTLESS



PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

When you were auditioning for the show, did the idea of playing a cop appeal to you? "Yeah, I really love cop stuff. Me and my dad really liked all those cop shows and MIAMI VICE is one of our favorites, so I was pretty excited because we don't have a lot of law enforcement characters on the show. I really wanted to bring it justice."

What did your research entail? "I really enjoyed watching TRUE DETECTIVE and my dad showed me some COLUMBO, although that character was more of a detective. I also watched *The Maltese Falcon* to try and tap into my inner detective. I have a couple of friends whose parents are cops in Texas, so I was asking them a bunch of questions. I also have friends that I went to college with who were in the military or still in the military, so I was shooting them texts, because Chance is a soldier at heart who transitioned into being a cop. I really wanted to bring that military aspect of Chance to life and then have him discover his passion for police work."

Did you watch any YouTube tutorials on handling guns? "I sure did. You also see [the use of guns] on TV a lot, so I was taking notes. I watched *Prisoners* with Jake Gyllenhaal to see how he does all of his stuff because I really enjoyed that movie. I also looked up how to arrest somebody, so I definitely YouTubed a few things."

Have there been any bloopers or mishaps with prop guns, badges or handcuffs? "Oh, yes. There was a scene where I was putting all of this evidence into an evidence bag. Before the scene, the crew told me, 'We only have two of these, so don't mess up,' because you have to peel the seal off, put the evidence in and then seal it back up and you can't reopen it. Well, I messed up my line so they were like, 'Okay, we've got another bag, don't worry.' So they give me the other bag, I peeled the seal, stuck the evidence back in and I messed up my line *again*. Then we had this 15-minute fiasco of trying to finagle this bag back to looking like I had just peeled the seal off and in the third take, another complication happened, so we had to go back and do it again. Me and evidence bags aren't too good of friends."

Before Chance could become an effective cop, he had to learn how to manage his PTSD. Did you enjoy portraying that chapter of his story? "Yeah, that was challenging, but in a good way. I really wanted to do that right because I'm very aware that it's a real thing that people struggle with and they struggle with it pretty hard. So again, I was asking a lot of questions of my friends in the military who know people who have been through that. I was also doing my research online and watching videos and just trying to bring as much truth and justice to that story as I could, so somebody who did experience that would watch and say, 'Yeah, he nailed that.' "

Are you prepared for the day Chance reads someone their Miranda rights? "I have looked them up just in case because I want to get them right. Playing a cop, you've got to have all that jargon down so it comes out of your mouth very smoothly or else somebody watching will think, 'That guy doesn't know what he's talking about.' But sometimes I read court orders and law-related things in the scripts and I'm like, 'Well, that doesn't sound natural.' So I look it up, read it about 100,000 times and write it down and then I'll be okay."

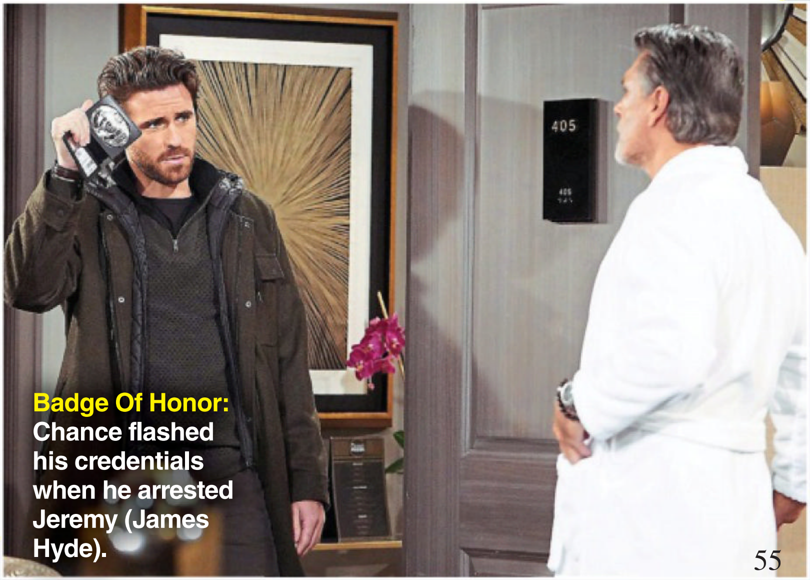
What do you think of Chance's professional clothing? "I've never been in a cop's uniform. They've got me in this really cool detective getup. My favorite part is the jacket, and the wardrobe guy will pop the collar on my jacket because that's how Chance rolls. He doesn't dress like a typical cop; his outfit has a little more swag. It's more a plainclothes detective look. I don't know what the wardrobe protocols are for detectives but I like what they got going on for me."

What makes your character police material? "His big thing is he wants to make the world a better place. That's why he joined the military: He wanted to protect this country and then he took those passions and transitioned them into a new job that brought him home, so that's what he's doing on the GCPD now. He's all about justice and wants to keep the streets clean."

Did you enjoy the relationship between Chance and his late partner, Rey? "Oh, yeah. I love Jordi [Vilasuso, ex-Rey]. We were good pals and I think we really tapped into that whole buddy/cop situation and it's too bad the way it worked out. I did enjoy my time with Jordi, and Rey was Chance's only friend, so I think Jordi enjoyed it, too. It was fun just bouncing off little cop ideas and I felt there was still so much of that dynamic to play because Jordi and I were just starting to get into our little groove."

How would you rate Chance as a cop? "He's facing a dilemma now, especially with the whole Victor thing, where Chance's two worlds collided; [Abby's] family and his love for police work to make the world a better place. So, he turned his cheek on a couple of things and now he's struggling with how good of a cop he really thinks he is. It was a fine line he was walking between family and work."

Do you think closing an investigation to protect Victor will haunt Chance? "Yeah, I think so. Chance grew up without a father, so he looked at Victor as a father figure who he respected and trusted and was the role model he never had. And then Chance realized Victor wasn't the hero he thought he was and it turned Chance's world upside down. So, letting Victor off the hook, I think, will always eat at Chance. The fact that he turned the cheek on this is something he'll have to sleep with for the rest of his life. I don't think he really knows who he is or what he stands for anymore, which is why I think he's struggling now."



Badge Of Honor: Chance flashed his credentials when he arrested Jeremy (James Hyde).

calendar

events

Who: DAYS's Brandon Barash (Stefan), Carson Boatman (Johnny), Wally Kurth (Justin; Ned, GH) and Eric Martsolf (Brady)
What: The Day Players show
When: Sun., April 23
Where: The Comedy Vault, 18 E. Wilson Street, Batavia, IL
How: Tickets are $125 for VIP and $55 for general admission and can be purchased at coastalentertainment.com/events.

Who: GH's Tabyana Ali (Trina) and Nicholas Chavez (Spencer)
What: Personal Appearance
When: Sat., June 3
Where: Zanies Comedy Night Club, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont, IL
How: Tickets are $85 for VIP and $49 for general admission and can be purchased at coastalentertainment.com/events.

Who: GH's Michael Easton (Finn) and Josh Swickard (Chase)
What: Personal Appearance
When: Sun., June 4
Where: Governor's Levittown, 90 Division Avenue, Levittown, NY
How: Tickets are $90 for VIP and $45 for general admission and can be purchased at coastalentertainment.com/events.

Father-Son Fun: Meet DAYS's Carson Boatman (Johnny, l.) and Dan Feuerriegel (EJ) in Florida.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Who: DAYS's Boatman, Dan Feuerriegel (EJ), Mike Manning (Charlie), Martsolf, Jordi Vilasuso (ex-Dario), GH's Tristan Rogers (Robert) and Johnny Wactor (ex-Brando) and Kristos Andrews (Pete, THE BAY)
What: Personal Appearance to benefit Samantha's Friends
When: Sat.-Sun., Sep. 9-10
Where: Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club, 7650 Legacy Boulevard, Lakewood Ranch, FL
How: For ticket information call Alice at 941-518-3906 or email aaalice1948@aol.com.

birthdays

Heinle

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Naomi Matsuda (Li, B&B) 3/14
Amelia Heinle (Victoria, Y&R) 3/17

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bold and beautiful

TRUST FACTOR

Thomas implores Hope to allow him back as lead designer for the Hope For The Future fashion line. He assures Hope that working together will also be the first step in regaining Douglas's trust. After considering how this move might affect not only Liam but Brooke, Hope won't commit to hiring Thomas back, but tells him that the first step would be to apologize to her mother.

PASSION PLAY

Deacon and Sheila break from a kiss, then make love. After, they reminisce about living together and make love again.

ULTERIOR MOTIVE

Liam and Bill face off once again about Sheila. Liam asks Bill if there is any chance at all that he could return to his former self. Bill becomes annoyed with Liam, who is certain there is something more going on with Bill and Sheila than meets the eye.

KEEPING TABS

Bill texts Sheila wanting to know where she is. Sheila tells Deacon that she is beginning to feel trapped, but she owes Bill her freedom. She worries that if Bill ever found out she slept with Deacon, she'd be back behind bars, and there is no telling what he'd do to Deacon. Before leaving, Sheila makes Deacon promise never to tell a soul about their relationship.

Sheila comes home to Bill, who tells her that Liam is hell-bent on making him realize that she is playing him and is not to be trusted. Sheila begins to worry that Bill is listening to Liam and Wyatt.

TRY, TRY AGAIN

Liam confides in Hope about Bill's inability to see the truth about Sheila. Hope suggests that Liam return to Bill's house to help ease his worry while she goes back to the office.

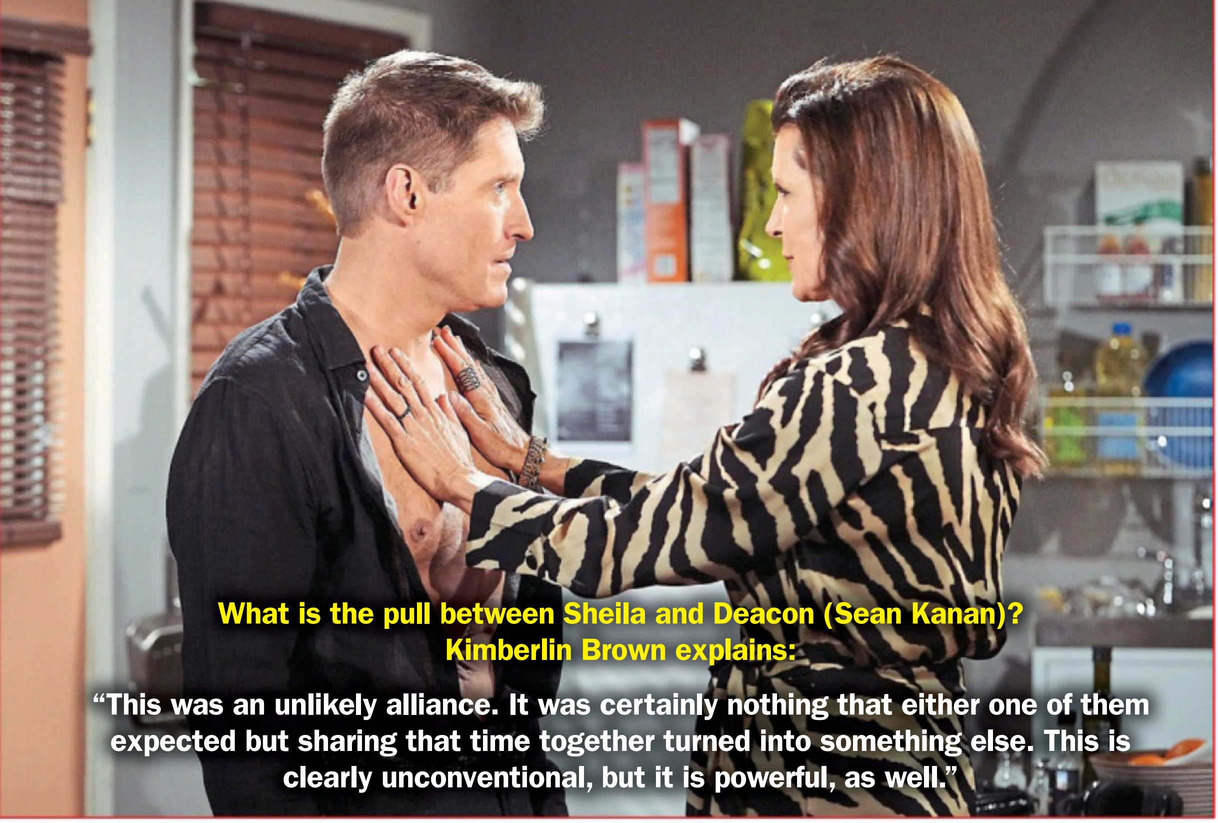
CHANCES ARE

With Taylor present, Thomas apologizes to Brooke for making the CPS call. Brooke fears for Hope's safety if she allows Thomas back into her life and the company. Thomas promises Brooke that his obsession with Hope is over. Brooke responds by asking Thomas how she is supposed to trust him. Thomas explains that Hope's line will be canceled if he doesn't design it. As Hope listens from the doorway,

flashback to 2001

Third-Party Interference: Deacon slept with Brooke (Katherine Kelly Lang, r.) behind Bridget's (Jennifer Finnegan) back.

JESSE GRANT/JPI



What is the pull between Sheila and Deacon (Sean Kanan)? Kimberlin Brown explains:

"This was an unlikely alliance. It was certainly nothing that either one of them expected but sharing that time together turned into something else. This is clearly unconventional, but it is powerful, as well."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Thomas asks Brooke for another chance. When Hope enters, Thomas turns his plea toward her and begs her to allow him to come back to Hope For The Future.

HE'S MINE

When Liam returns to Bill's, Sheila excuses herself. To her surprise, Deacon calls her. She clarifies to Deacon that what happened earlier will never happen again. As Liam presses Bill for answers, Sheila returns and lovingly puts her arms around Bill, showing Liam that she and Bill are in love.

BACK FOR GOOD?

Thomas sees his psychiatrist and speaks about his progress. Thomas gives Taylor and Dr. Howard all the reasons why they can trust that he is no longer obsessed with Hope.

Liam realizes something is up with Hope, who admits she is considering bringing Thomas back as lead designer on the Hope For The Future line. He advises Hope that working with Thomas is jeopardizing her safety and the safety of their family. Liam pleads with Hope not to allow Thomas to return.

IN BRIEF

Katie expresses her feelings to Carter. She tells him that she's never felt as valued as she has with him.... Paris gives Thomas a pep talk before he goes to see if he got his job back.

FRESH START

Hope makes her decision about Thomas. Before she can reveal her answer, Taylor chimes in and says that Thomas has made great strides in therapy, and she hopes Hope will find it in her heart to forgive her son.

Liam leans on Wyatt as he recounts his conversation with Hope about Thomas and how Hope finally agreed that bringing Thomas back into their lives is a terrible idea. When Douglas arrives, Brooke and Taylor talk to him about his feelings about his mom and dad working together again. Douglas is jubilant at the idea. In front of Douglas, Taylor and Brooke, Thomas makes one last plea to Hope. □

days of our lives

BOSTON BOUND

Jack gives Gwen and Leo the keys to *The Spectator*, then informs his daughter that he and Jennifer are going back to Boston, noting that while he loves his daughter, he thinks they are better off not being in each other's lives.

Julie is aghast to learn of Gwen and Xander's blackmail and vows to take action against Gwen. Jennifer calms her down, and later, Jack and Jennifer once again say good-bye to Salem.

TAKING THE LEAD

Alex is stunned when Maggie announces that she will be the new CEO of Titan. Alex protests and offers reasons why Maggie may not be the best choice. But Maggie insists she's up to the task and finally convinces Alex to get on board. Later, Justin learns of the unexpected development.

SWEET HOME, CHICAGO

Justin tells Xander that he and Sarah are still married because a clerk at the courthouse lost their divorce papers, so they'll have to sign again.... Rex is thrilled when Sarah informs him she's pregnant, thinking the baby is his. Sarah quickly clarifies that she's carrying Xander's baby. Rex offers her a fresh start — in Chicago. Xander interrupts, so Rex leaves. He wonders if they should give their marriage another go. Sarah is tempted to tell him about the baby, but in the end, she insists they are over, and they sign the new divorce papers. She also informs him she's moving to Chicago, which leaves him stung.... Sarah tells Rex that she's taking the job offer and will leave Salem with him.

BAIL TIME

Belle chastises Eric and Brady as they explain their motives for reprogramming Stefan. Sloan arrives at the station to urge Melinda to throw the book at Eric. Melinda wonders why, considering that she just read in *The Spectator* that Eric was giving her the best sex of her life. Later, Belle gets Brady out on bail. Sloan agrees to spring Eric since everything ultimately worked out for her with Li and Rolf.

HIGH TIMES

Stefan almost hears EJ and Nicole discussing their plan to drug him, but they cover. Stefan slips the drug for EJ into a cup, but Nicole distracts him so EJ can switch cups, and Stefan drinks the drugged beverage.

Li surprises Gabi with a planned day of romance; Gabi reluctantly agrees to spend the day with him. However, she gets a call from Stefan and makes an excuse to see him. Li agrees to take a raincheck, but after Gabi leaves, he learns that his wife was lying. Later, Gabi meets with Stefan, who is a bit dizzy from the drug. Gabi informs him of her deal

flashback to 2018

Read All About It: After a conversation with Claire, Eve (Kassie DePaiva) and Brady (Eric Martsolf) decided to bring back *Bella* magazine, which had been named for his mother, Isabella.

PHOTOS: XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Why does Gabi leave with Li (Remington Hoffman)? Camila Banus explains:

“Gabi decides to go ahead with this contract because at the end of six months, she’ll have what she’s been wanting for the last five years. She’ll have her position back at DiMera and her man next to her.”

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Johnny confronts Stefan.
- Li makes slight inroads with Gabi.
- Roman opens up to Lucas about his heartache.

with Li, and Stefan decides it’s in their best interest for her to stay in the marriage until they’re able to get rid of EJ and install Gabi in his place.

Li calls Sloan and discovers that the contract prohibits Gabi from cheating. Later, he finds Gabi and Stefan kissing. Li informs Gabi about the cheating clause; she blasts Li, but leaves with him.

ON THE CASE

Johnny overhears EJ talking to Nicole about his plans to oust Stefan from DiMera. EJ covers by telling Johnny he wants to get rid of Stefan because he thinks he’s on drugs. Johnny later talks to Wendy, who thinks the story doesn’t add up. Johnny eventually comes to wonder whether his father is drugging Stefan.

LUNCH BUNCH

Brady invites Chloe to join him and Rachel for lunch. Chloe worries they won’t be able to get past Rachel’s hatred for her. John drops off Rachel, who tears into Chloe and wants nothing to do with her. Chloe decides it’s best if she goes.

KISS AND TELL

Eric runs into Nicole, who’s surprised to learn Sloan is his lawyer. Sloan happens by and pulls Eric into a hot kiss. After Sloan leaves, Nicole blasts his choice of lover, but Eric turns the tables by challenging Nicole’s new liaison with EJ.

CONNECT TWO

Sloan torments Paulina by revealing that she had the court freeze all of Paulina’s assets until their civil suit is settled. Paulina advises Belle to do whatever it takes to beat Sloan and protect Chanel.

Chanel shares a connection with a woman named Talia. Chanel asks Talia to fill out an application for a job at the bakery. Paulina informs Chanel that her assets have been frozen, and for the time being, they need to cease any unnecessary expenditures, including any new hires. Later, Chanel impulsively hires Talia.

Jada asks Rafe if he’s interested in her romantically. Before Rafe can answer, Talia interrupts, and it’s revealed she’s Jada’s sister.

FIT TO PRINT?

Alex daydreams that he’s CEO of Titan and back together with Stephanie. Maggie enters and informs him that she’s shutting down *Bella*. He protests, but Maggie won’t be swayed. Alex reaches out to Victor. Xander congratulates Maggie on her new job at Titan, and requests an interview.

Leo asks Chad for a comment about Alex losing the Titan CEO position. Chad offers up too much info about Alex, as well as Alex and Stephanie, so Steph orders Leo out, then lambastes Chad for revealing her private affairs. ☐

general hospital

BODY POLITICS

Ava and Austin try to conceal their shock when Dante searches Wyndemere and Nikolas's body isn't where they stashed it. Dante finds a broken watch bearing Nik's initials that is stopped at a time that conflicts with Ava's account of when Nik left the house. Meanwhile, Mason calls his boss to report that he has new leverage. Later, he taunts Austin with the incriminating info he has against him and Ava. Ava encounters Sonny and tells him about how Nik threatened Avery. Before she can confide more in Sonny, Austin pulls her away to tell her about Mason, who relishes the power he now holds over them.

HOPE FOR YOU YET

Obrecht slaps Liz, railing at her for contributing to Britt's death by not going to the police. Nina intervenes and Scott tries to soothe Liz, who opens up to Finn about her guilty conscience but insists she needs to handle the fallout on her own. Obrecht has choice words for Scott when she learns he got Liz an immunity deal. TJ interrupts to tell Nina and Obrecht that Obrecht is a bone marrow match for Willow. Nina calls Michael with the good news; he, Carly, Joss and Willow celebrate. At G.H., Terry explains that more tests are needed, and Obrecht encourages Willow to open her heart to Nina. Later, Nina is grateful when Willow offers her an update on her condition.

TRUST FUDGE

Sonny is suspicious of Dex, who is trying to keep Sonny from finding out how much time he's been spending with Joss. Sonny decides to cut Dex out of his meeting with Hume, the Pikeman rep. Michael has a covert meeting with Dex, who is worried that Sonny is shutting him out of the Pikeman deal. They discuss ways for Dex to regain Sonny's trust.

LIES, ALL LIES!

Robert feels bad about having no choice but to deceive Diane about what went down with Holly.... Alexis invites Gregory to join the paper's editorial board; he insists that he can't because it's a conflict of interest. Alexis calls PCU and learns Gregory is not employed there. After Gregory has a mysterious doctor's appointment, Alexis confronts him for lying to her. He blasts her for digging into his business behind his back.

flashback to 2018

Time Of Our Lives: Alexis (Nancy Lee Grahn) pondered the symbolism of her late mother's broken watch.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Does Eileen suspect that Laura (Genie Francis, r.) is on to her? Says Heather Mazur:

"I don't think she's had that sense because she has tried so hard to keep it together in front of Laura. She thinks she was being a good actor, a good liar."

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Sasha doesn't hold back.
- Dex and Josslyn make time for romance.
- Nina confides in Ava.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Sam and Kristina surprise Molly and TJ with an anniversary party. Kristina finds a pregnancy test and assumes it's Sam's, but Molly clarifies that it's hers. Molly and TJ are bummed when the test is negative. Later, Curtis runs into Alexis as he exits an NA meeting and they chat about what went down between him and Portia. They run into TJ and Molly and talk turns to parenthood, solidifying TJ and Molly's decision to try for a baby.

OVER AND DONE WITH

After talks with Dante and Gregory, Chase is ready to tell Brook Lynn that he still has feelings for her — only to arrive at Kelly's in time to hear Brook Lynn insist to Sasha that she is over him.

HAUNTED LOUSE

Laura tasks Eileen with identifying Anna's "remains". In the G.H. morgue, Anna's "ghost" reveals herself, and after a rattled Eileen cops to her crimes, Felicia and Anna reveal their trickery. They use her confession as leverage to get her to agree to work with them against Victor.

HOLDING PATTERN

At G.H., Laura is uneasy about Spencer's intention to take Ace away from Esme. She and Spencer observe Victor's emotional first meeting with Nik's son. Esme's opinion of Liz changes when Liz confesses her role in Esme's kidnapping. Diane delivers bad news to Spencer: He can't leave with Ace because Esme is fighting to maintain her parental rights. Victor angrily confronts Liz about Nik's disappearance and threatens her; she tells him to do his worst and that soon, he'll have nothing to hold over her.

ANYTHING FOR LOVE

Olivia and Sonny have a heart-to-heart about his outsider status with his family and why Carly and Drew must keep their relationship under wraps. Nina overhears them. Drew, meanwhile, tells Carly he has an idea about how to protect them against accusations of insider trading. He details his plan to neutralize Ned's threat and Carly is touched by the sacrifices he is willing to make to be with her.

young *and* restless

BABIES ON BOARD

At the coffeehouse, Mariah tells Sharon that her daughter has been born. Later, Adam informs Sharon that Sally is pregnant with his child.

Adam reaches out to Sally and expresses concern about her health; she tells him his assistance isn't needed until the baby is born. Later, Nick warns Sally that the more involved Adam becomes, the harder it will be for him to let go.

DOWNWARD SPIRAL

After whining about Daniel and Summer censuring her, Phyllis rants to Michael and Lauren that Diane should die. The Baldwins express fears that Phyllis is spiraling.

DREAM WEAVERS

Chelsea admits to Adam that her relationship with Billy has moved beyond friendship. Adam warns his ex that Billy is toxic..... Billy tells Chelsea that he may accept Jack's offer to return to Jabot because she helped him realize what's important to him.... When Adam fixates on Chelsea and Billy, Sharon advises him to find something he feels passionate about.... Chelsea shows Billy her ideas for a video game, and they enthusiastically discuss their future work endeavors.

BLING TONE

After a romantic evening at the cabin, Jack proposes to Diane. She doesn't give an answer and silently wonders if things will work out for them. Later, Jack presents a ring to Diane and she accepts.

DRINK AND BE LEERY

In Stark's suite, Phyllis has a nightmare. When she wakes up suddenly, Stark informs her that she is lucky to be alive. He explains he rescued her after she passed out in the street. Jeremy shares his revenge plan for Diane and encourages Phyllis to help.

Kyle shares his concern to Billy about his parents getting back together. Later, Billy tips off Phyllis that Diane and Jack are getting serious. After, Phyllis tells Jeremy that she's throwing in with his plot.

POP START

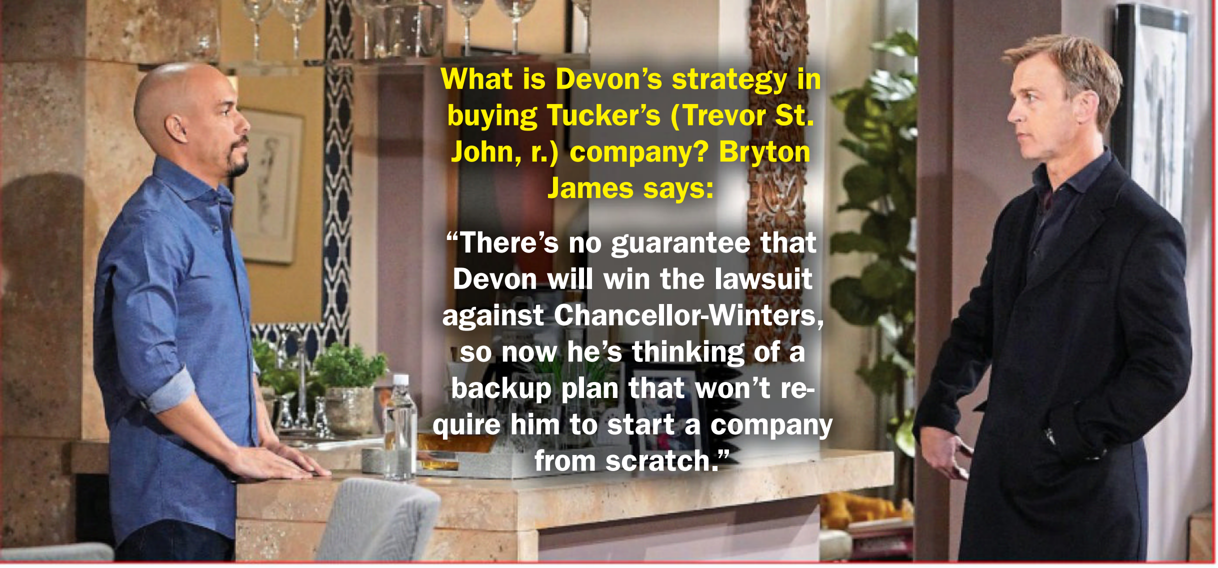
At the coffeehouse, Sally informs Summer that she's pregnant with Adam's child. Summer accuses Sally of using Nick to protect herself from Adam. Meanwhile, Nick tells his brother that he's wary of Adam using the baby to insinuate himself into Sally's life. Adam claims he wants to be a better person by stepping up.

Kyle tells Summer that

flashback to 2010

Drunk And Disorderly: Victoria (Amelia Heinle) and Billy (then-Billy Miller) unexpectedly got passionate after she picked him up from the street where he passed out.

SEAN SMITH/JPI



What is Devon's strategy in buying Tucker's (Trevor St. John, r.) company? Bryton James says:

"There's no guarantee that Devon will win the lawsuit against Chancellor-Winters, so now he's thinking of a backup plan that won't require him to start a company from scratch."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

she may need to accept Nick and Sally's relationship. Later, Nick urges Summer to be open to the idea of him with Sally.

FAMILY TIES

Nate urges Daniel to help him resolve the rift between Lily and Devon. Daniel instructs Nate to allow the siblings to work things out on their own.

COMPANY POLICIES

Abby asks Ashley if Tucker is acting in Devon's best interests by offering to sell him McCall Unlimited. Later, Tucker and Ashley share a passionate kiss. Devon then reaches out to talk to his dad.

Adam tells Victor that he'll run McCall Unlimited, but only if it's separate from Victoria and Newman Enterprises.

Daniel tells Lily that Nate tried to recruit his help to put an end to her and Devon's lawsuit. When Lily laments how her plans for Chancellor-Winters have fallen apart, Daniel points out that she hasn't failed.

Victoria asks Devon if he's interested in purchasing Tucker's company, but he refuses to answer. Later, Devon tells Abby that he may acquire McCall Unlimited after all.

Victor informs Victoria that McCall Unlimited will remain separate from Newman once they acquire it and Adam will helm the company. After, Victoria vows to Nate that Adam won't control McCall.

Devon admits to Tucker that he's intrigued by the idea of taking over his father's company. If that happens, Tucker offers to be Devon's advisor.

DOING RECON

At the coffeehouse, Chelsea observes Phyllis fishing for information from Summer about Jack and Diane's whereabouts.

Diane has a dream about her wedding day to Jack, in which she has positive encounters with Kyle, Summer, Traci and Ashley, but then the dream turns sinister when Jeremy arrives.

Phyllis finds out that Kyle ordered a delivery to the cabin. She calls the landline and when Diane answers, Phyllis hangs up. She texts Jeremy she has located Jack and Diane.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

2	8	6	3	7	5	4	1	9
5	9	7	4	1	6	8	3	2
4	3	1	9	2	8	5	6	7
7	5	4	1	8	2	3	9	6
1	6	8	5	3	9	7	2	4
3	2	9	7	6	4	1	5	8
6	4	5	8	9	3	2	7	1
8	1	2	6	5	7	9	4	3
9	7	3	2	4	1	6	8	5

ask us

we've got the answers

Brotherly Love: GH's Kiki (Kristen Alderson) was romanced by Morgan (Bryan Craig) before Michael.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Q On GH, who did Kiki date first, Michael or Morgan? Was she ever married to either of them?

J.F., via email

A Kiki was introduced as Morgan's girlfriend, and he was the first Corinthos brother to date her. She and Morgan were briefly married in 2013, but the union was annulled.

Q Who is the new waiter at Il Giardino on B&B who is interested in Brooke? His name was Paul but now he's Hollis and he said his full name is Paul Hollister.

Confused in CT

A Hollis W. Chambers plays Deacon's right-hand man at Il Giardino. The character's full name is Paul Hollister, but his friends call him Hollis.

Q Is it true that Gabi and Chad on DAYS used to date?

Liz R., via email

A Yes, it's true. The pair briefly dated in 2009 after Gabi came to Salem. Gabi tried to rekindle things in 2012, but he was involved with Melanie, so Gabi claimed she had a stalker to gain Chad's sympathy, then hired a guy named Andrew to pretend he was said stalker. The scheme went horribly wrong and Chad told Gabi to leave him alone.

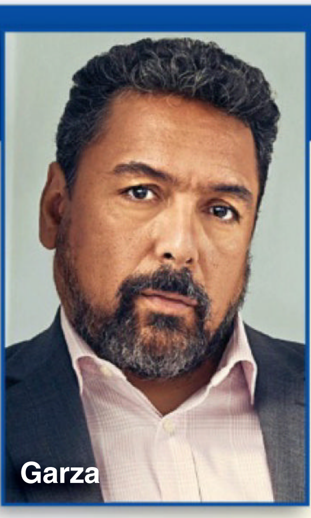
Q While watching BREAKING BAD, season 5, I thought I saw James Patrick Stuart, Valentin from GH, in the background of a scene at a DEA department meeting. Could that be?

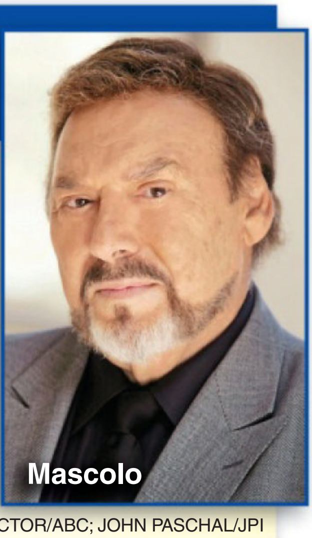
L.J.W., via email

twin peek

I've been watching THE ROOKIE: FEDS and Matt Garza reminds me so much of Joseph Mascolo, who played Stefano on DAYS. Can you print the pictures side by side so I can see if anyone else agrees? Love your magazine. I have been a subscriber for *years*!

Pat D., Toledo, OH





ROBERT ECTOR/ABC; JOHN PASCHAL/JPI

A The critically-acclaimed series is not in Stuart's list of credits.

Q **Has Y&R's Kyle had any significant relationships aside from Lola and Summer?**

Naomi M., via email

A Kyle's son, Harrison, is a product of his affair with the married Tara Locke, and before Summer, he was involved with Michael's sister, Eden.

Q **Was Tristan Rogers (Robert, GH) ever on B&B? My mother says yes but I think she is confusing him with his role as Y&R's Colin. Can you clear this up for me?**

Annie D., via email

A Mom's the word, Annie! In 1997, Rogers had a short-term gig on B&B playing private investigator Hunter Jones.

Q **How many kids total does GH's Heather have?**

B.H., via email

A Heather is mother to Steven Lars Webber (known as Steve), whose father is Jeff; the late Franco Baldwin, who was sired by Scott; and Esme Prince, who she shared with Ryan.

Got a question or "Twin Peeks" suggestion for the staff of *Soap Opera Digest*?

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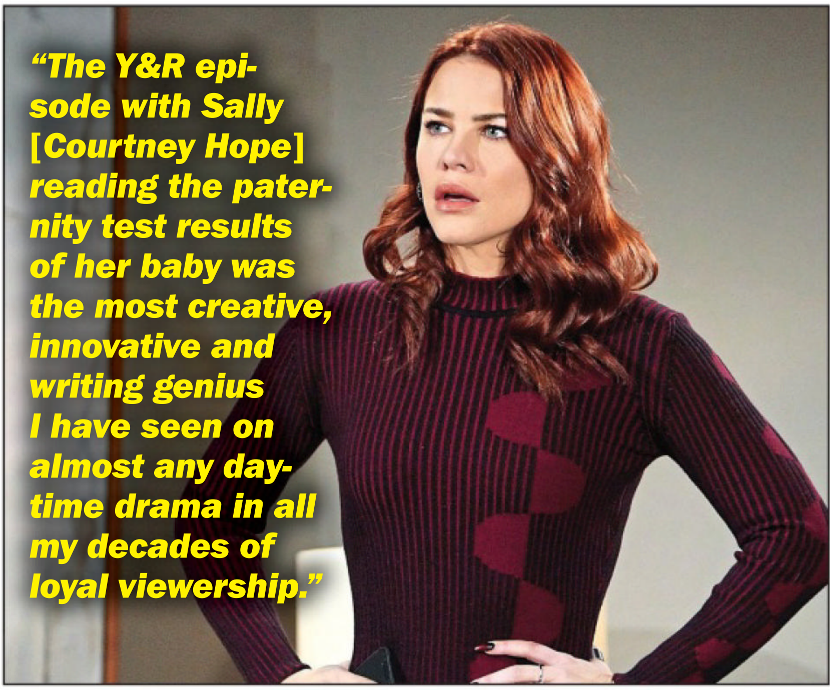
SOUND OFF

What's on your mind?

MAMA DRAMA

The Y&R episode with Sally reading the paternity test results of her baby was the most creative, innovative and writing genius I have seen on almost any daytime drama in all my decades of loyal viewership. When I saw the first rewind back to the scene on the couch with Nick and Sally eagerly searching the test results, and then switching the entire scenario from Adam to Nick, I had chills, because this has been the most exciting story to date. Adam being the father gave the amazing Mark Grossman [the chance to show Adam's] humanity in spades, professing his love and commitment to Sally and proposing to her, but watching the fallout from Nick and Victor ruin his "moment". I wanted Adam to finally have some happiness with the woman he adored. But then Nick being the father revealed that there are deep feelings there for Sally but not the great love she was praying for, only a commitment to be there for her and the baby. It was disappointing to see Nick that way, but Sharon and Phyllis will always be the great loves of his life, so maybe there just wasn't enough room for Sally. The final moments back on the couch with phone in hand waiting for the real, true paternity results had to be the cliffhanger, as always, but this episode will be long remembered by this fan, and was surely a *tour de force* of acting genius by all three players. Bravo!

Eve S., via email

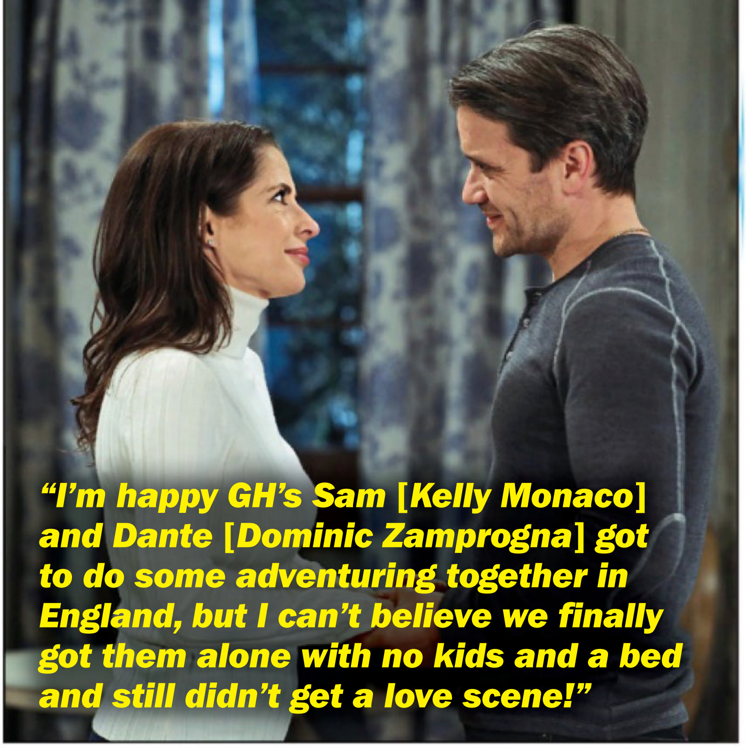


"The Y&R episode with Sally [Courtney Hope] reading the paternity test results of her baby was the most creative, innovative and writing genius I have seen on almost any daytime drama in all my decades of loyal viewership."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

SOBERING THOUGHTS

Eric Brady's sobriety on DAYS was very important to him, at least before his most recent breakup with Nicole. Lately, he's been throwing back beers with Sloan like it's no big deal. Even his stepbrother, Brady, an addict himself, casually remarked that he was "concerned" about Eric's drinking — but didn't try to get him to a meeting. Although Eric is dealing with the death of his



"I'm happy GH's Sam [Kelly Monaco] and Dante [Dominic Zamprogna] got to do some adventuring together in England, but I can't believe we finally got them alone with no kids and a bed and still didn't get a love scene!"

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

mother, that's no reason to look the other way when it comes to his relapse. Eric killed Daniel Jonas when he drove drunk — his sobriety should be very important to him and everyone that cares for him. On another note, I was really impressed by the recent scenes between Jake and Nick in the "afterlife". Jake did a great job reminding Nick of his cousin Julie's unconditional love for him. He appealed to him to live up to Julie's unwavering devotion by allowing Marlena, Kayla and Kate to return to their earthly bodies. Nick's tearful reaction showed that Jake's words had clearly had an impact. For all his evil deeds, we saw that Nick was a (deeply flawed) person (or "devil") that seemed to truly regret his actions. Kudos to their portrayers, Brandon Barash [Jake] and Blake Berris [Nick], for bringing these compelling scenes to life. Thanks very much.

Andy in Madison

WHERE IS THE LOVE?

I'm happy GH's Sam and Dante got to do some adventuring together in England, but I can't believe we finally got them alone with no kids and a bed and still didn't get a love scene! Although I appreciate the romance, sweetness and spice Dom [Zamprogna, Dante] and Kelly [Monaco, Sam] bring to all their scenes, it's been over a year since "Sante's" one and only love scene!

Abigail in Canada

CASE IN POINT

Okay, I've waited for someone to say this to GH's Nina but no one has yet. It doesn't matter when Willow found out about Nina being her mother. Finding out sooner wouldn't have mattered because Willow made the decision to wait to have the bone marrow transplant until the baby was far enough along to be safely born! She could not have had the transplant any sooner because the baby couldn't be born sooner! Please, someone, point this out to Nina! Nina wants to be the victim and I am so tired of her not taking any accountability for the rift between her and Willow, which started years ago with Charlotte.

Lisa H., Los Lunas, NM

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MAILBAG

AROUND THE DIAL

"Jackée Harry [Paulina] has been the most refreshing character on DAYS in a long time," declares Eve in Glenville, NY. "The episode of Kate speaking through the urn with her 'ashes' and Paulina answering back with, 'Roman isn't here. Can I take a message?' made me laugh so hard I couldn't stop. Keep Paulina in the 'heavenly' mix indefinitely. What a hoot!" ... "Ever since Esme was introduced into GH, I have enjoyed loving to hate her as the villain among the young adult storyline with Spencer and Trina," notes Christy K. in New Orleans, LA. "It worked that she was an evil character and was manipulative. What's not working now is this redemption story for her. GH needs to put her back as the villain in the story, not this victim they're trying to make her out to be now. She should be out there using her baby as leverage to get what she wants from Spencer. I really hope GH can turn this around and give us Esme the villain back." R.G. in Washington Twp., MI, points out, "I thought GH's Ava could have gotten out of murdering Nikolas by blaming it on Ryan Chamberlain. Ryan showed up at Wyndemere, and since he had died, Ava and Dr. Gatlin-Holt could have blamed Ryan for killing Nikolas, or else the police could have just assumed Ryan killed Nikolas, and then Ava (and Dr. Holt) would have both been off the hook (no pun intended)."

YOU SAID IT!

"On the 2/2/23 episode of B&B, Steffy and Finn were cuddling on the couch. Finn didn't have a shirt on. His chest was as smooth as a baby's bottom with no blemishes or scars. Wouldn't there be a scar where he was shot by Sheila?"

— Sheila S., Palm Coast, FL

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Laura Wright

(Carly, GH)

■ *How do you procrastinate?* "Oh, I scroll Instagram. Let me just say everybody does, I'm just being honest!"

■ *If you could pick up a new skill instantly, what would it be?* "Tennis. I want to be really good at it because I love playing pickleball, but I'm obsessed with watching tennis."

■ *What were your must-see TV shows as a kid?* "I watched HAPPY DAYS, LAVERNE & SHIRLEY, and then when I got a little older I would watch DALLAS with my father, and KNOTS LANDING. I was obsessed with it."

■ *What is your take on clowns?* "Here's the thing. I used to collect them when I was in high school; I had no idea that people were freaked out by clowns. I loved them. I thought they were just so fun and I loved the colors and they always looked so happy. I had a clown necklace. I had a clown lamp, I had clowns all over my bedroom, and I would have friends come over and they would be like, 'What the hell?' "

■ *What song will always get you up on the dance floor?* " 'Honky Tonk Woman' by The Rolling Stones. So great."

RICKY MIDDLESWORTH/ABC

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